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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS FEARLESS VIEWS

YESTERDAY Photojournalists in their company vehicles race against volcanic key when burning ash from Mt. Pinatubo threatened to engulf them in Barangay Ogsor, Botolan, Zambales, in this photo earlier taken by Boy Cabrillo on June 15, 1991. (Stories below and in Across the Nation, Page A16.)

US to PH: We're with you

Says they are allies on issue of Spratlys

By Norman Bordadora
and Artsy Ramos

THE UNITED STATES' message to President Aquino yesterday was crystal clear.

"I assure you, in all subjects, we the United States, are with the Philippines," US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas said in an audience that included Mr. Aquino at the launch of the national renewable energy program.

"The Philippines and the United States are strategic treaty allies. We are partners. We will continue to consult and work with each other on issues, including the South China Sea and the Spratly Islands," Thomas said.

Mr. Aquino welcomed Thomas' statement during the Department of Energy event, which Palace officials described as the most unequivocal expression of support amid strident challenges between China and claimants to the disputed islands.

"Of course they are a superpower, they have more than 10

(TO PH) A22

TODAY The photojournalists who risk-raced death while covering the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo 20 years ago returned to Barangay Ogsor, Botolan, Zambales, on Monday and were spotted this barrio scene of farmers driving their carabao-drawn carts across a shallow expanse of water, the same spot where the photograph above was shot on June 15, 1991.

Pinatubo at 20: Rebuilding still unfinished

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

(First of two parts)

BACOLOR, Pampanga—Twenty years and 950 billion lives later, some members of the communities devastated by Mt. Pinatubo's catastrophic eruption are still trying to rebuild their lives.

SPECIAL REPORT

For 60-year-old Linda Baking and her husband, recovering from the disaster has hardly begun. Rebuilding—for them and some others—remains an unfinished task.

Already the government has spent some P50 billion for the rehabilitation of areas in three provinces wrecked by the June 15, 1991, volcanic blasts.

But to date, the government has not tasked any agency or created any body to take stock of successes or limitations, of lessons learned, or to measure accountability or decide future actions, an Inquirer check showed.

The Mount Pinatubo Commission could no longer be counted on. Its extended life ended in 1995.

Based on past documents that tackled

(TO PH) A10

US leads Asean war games in Sulu, Palawan

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A US-led naval exercise in the Sulu Sea involving the Philippines and five other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) began yesterday.

In the next 10 days, combined naval units from the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the United States will be in the Sulu Sea, Malacca Strait and Celebes Sea.

The naval exercise will be followed by another naval training exercise between the Philippines and the United States in the Sulu Sea. The Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise from June 20 to July 6 will be held in the waters east of Palawan.

(TO PH) A11

Peruse diplomacy over troubled waters / A23

China rules out force in Spratlys, rebukes US senator / A22

DOJ drops slay raps vs ex-Palawan gov, 5 others

By Marlon Ramos
in Manila
and Rosemarie D. Arnis
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) has dropped the murder case against former Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and five others tagged in the killing of broadcaster and environmental activist Gerry Ortega, delivering a blow to the victim's family.

"Of course I'm angry," the widow, Patricia Ortega, said yesterday in Puerto Princesa City.

"The upside a lot about justice under the present dispensation, when we have no one in

(TO PH) A11

'My husband died exposing anomalies'

By Jaime Bravador Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

IRIGA CITY—In his widow pedal, Romeo Olea was big in exposés but earned little or nothing. Investigators say he was killed for exposing his illegal logging activities.

Raquel was standing at the gate of her home past 6 a.m. on Monday when a police car arrived. An officer got off and approached her with a request: Pinalel she go with him to the station?

(TO PH) A12

Digital dalliance: Easy to do, easy to get caught

DJ FEP Anthony Weiner may have taken it to an extreme. But the online flirtations and provocative photos that got him into so much trouble are far from unusual among adults these days, experts say.

What with Facebook friends, Twitter followers and Skype video chats, it is now all too easy to

(DIGITAL) A4

Massacre trial to be reality show live on TV

By Marlon Ramos

THE TRIAL of the suspected perpetrators of the 2009 Maguindanao massacre will soon be viewed by living rooms nationwide courtesy of the Supreme Court.

In a landmark ruling, 11 of the 15 justices of the high court yesterday voted in favor of the petition of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and other media groups seeking live coverage of the trial.

Midas Marquez, Supreme Court spokesperson and administrator, described the result

(MASSACRE) A11

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

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2-D (2:00 PM)
16 25
(5:00 PM)
1 8
(9:00 PM)
10 31

SWERTRES (2:00 PM)
9 8 2
(5:00 PM)
5 2 1
(9:00 PM)
0 0 7

SIX DIGIT (Lotto 6/42)
3 7 2 1 6 2

EZ2 LUZ-VIS-MIN (2:00 PM)
6 15 19 22 34 39
P6,263,641.00

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7 11 15 33 41 48
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Pagcor sues former chief

By Marlon Ramos

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) yesterday filed criminal charges against its former chair, Efraim Genuino, his son Erwin and 25 other individuals for allegedly funneling P26.7 million from the state-owned gaming firm to finance the film "Bakit" in 2008.

"This is just the start of a series of cases that we will file for the anomalous transactions entered into by the previous Pagcor officials," Jay Santiago, Pagcor spokesman and chief legal counsel, told reporters.

Genuino could not be reached for comment as of press time last night.

Aside from the Genuinos, charged before the Department of Justice for malversation of public funds and graft were former Pagcor president Rafael Francisco; former board members Manuel Bonoc, Philip Lo and Gerardo Cordoba; and former employees Jose Bonifacio, Bess Figueroa, Edward "Dodie" Iling, Cesar Bautista Jr., Rolbet Hernandez, Victoria Carmelita and Jocelyn Dawson-Cisneros.

Also named respondents were Bida Foundation officials Mario Centeno, Rodolfo Antonio Jr., Emilio Manrefa, Philip Beltran, Luis Inaniwa, Oliver Soriano, Jesus Salamone, Carol Montalbo and Josephine Samaguil-Ramirez; and Viva Communications Inc. chair Vic del Rosario Jr. and officials Wanda Glass Lopez, Hermie Go, Maria Theresa Santiago and Tony Magsino.

According to Santiago, Bida foundation and Bida Productions entered into an agreement with Viva to coproduce the movie "Bakit" and Senator Cayetano details of the P40 million production cost amounting to P26.7 million.

Santiago said that both Bida Productions and Bida Foundation were headed by Erwin Genuino and composed of the other former Pagcor officials.

"Worse, Erwin Genuino acted as executive producer of the movie despite him being a Pagcor employee at the time," Santiago said.

In an attempt to recover the disbursement of funds, he said that King, former Pagcor commission clerk director, issued a memorandum saying that the money would be used to buy movie tickets to be given free to regular patrons of the casinos run by Pagcor.

"They claimed that there was a high demand for movie tickets under Pagcor's player-ranking system," Santiago said, referring to the state-owned gaming firm's rewards system.

PAGCOR executives led by chief legal counsel Jay Santiago and director Eugene Manalastas show to the media documents relating to the cases of graft and malversation of public funds filed against former Pagcor officials led by its former chair and CEO Efraim Genuino over the disbursement of public funds amounting to P26.7 million for the production of the movie "Bakit" in 2008. STORY ON PAGE 3

MMFF Best Picture in 2008

However, he said, documents showed that only P2 million worth of movie passes were actually distributed to casino patrons and Pagcor employees, and that the rest of the funds were used to finance the movie production.

The movie was entered in the Metro Manila Film Festival of 2008 where it won the Best Picture award. In 2009, it was adjudged Picture of the Year during the first showdown of the Philippine Movie Press Club.

In 2014, Erwin Genuino ran for mayor of Makati City but lost to Junjun Binay. He and his father were accused of using Pagcor funds and resources to bolster his campaign.

Current Pagcor chair Cristina Gaspar had smelled over filing charges against the father and son duo.

1.6M poor families got ₱4B in dole

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GOVERNMENT has released at least P4.1 billion to 1.6 million poor families as part of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) dubbed "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino" program as of May 31 this year, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman reported yesterday.

The figure represents 80 percent of the program fund so far released to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as part of its ambitious P21 billion cash dole-out project, she told the Senate committee on finance.

Soliman said that as the rate things are going the DSWD would need an advance release of P1 billion to cover the new set of beneficiaries to be registered under the program in the coming months.

"If our request for additional fund release would be approved, we would continue with the registration," she told reporters after the Senate hearing.

"But if we won't get a supplemental budget, for sure the new would-be registrants and we would explain to beneficiaries that they would get their grant next year."

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile questioned Soliman on the demographics of the families receiving the dole-out to determine the possible correlation between the number of children and poverty incidence.

"They're poor because they have too many children—I want to verify this argument whether there is truth to this," Enrile said.

Pirates free Pinoy sailor, 28 others

By Jerry E. Esplanada

SOMALI pirates have released a United Arab Emirates-flagged oil tanker and the vessel's 28 crew members, one of whom is a Filipino, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

The DFA identified the ship as the MT Hirin, which was hijacked by the pirates on March 28 in the Gulf of Aden, and the 19-year-seaman as 2nd Officer Ronie Bueta.

"The vessel is now sailing toward Salalah, Oman. Arrangements are being made for the repatriation of Bueta to Manila," said DFA spokesperson Ma. Eduardo Malaya.

Malaya said "all crew members of the hijacked ship are in good condition."

The 45m 3Bader-registered vessel was traveling from Jordan to Singapore when it was hijacked by the pirates in the 259th nautical mile southeast of Oman.

The 105,849-metric ton ship is operated by the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Co.

Montefalcon, Capt. Gianfranco Tolledo, armed Forces liaison officer to the Government Maritime Forces in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, has reported to the DFA that there are still 79 Filipinos seafarers who are being held by Somali pirates.

The sailors are on board eight foreign-flagged vessels, said Collado.

According to the DFA, "the Philippine government has undertaken measures to maximize the exposure of Filipino seafarers to piracy attacks, including making arrangements with ship principals and manning agencies for vessels to travel along a safety corridor and to adopt best management practices as a deterrence to piracy attacks."

"It has likewise taken up the issue of maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean before the United Nations and other international organizations," it also said.

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BEFORE 121 lbs

AFTER 104 lbs

P-Noy asked to rethink Comelec chief's appointment

By TJ Burgonio

DOES HE help his friends cheat?

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday asked Malacañang to consider this question while mulling over the reappointment of Sixto Brillantes as chair of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

President Aquino said he would reappoint Brillantes to the top Comelec post after Congress adjourned last June 6 without passing his appointment.

"I just want to make sure that we have the right man for the job. If the President really wants him there, let us use the Constitution on Appointments (CA) as a sense to mold the kind of Comelec chairman that we deserve," Cayetano said.

Cayetano said that between now and the opening of the second regular session on July 24, Malacañang should ask itself: Is he the kind who does not accept a case that involves cheating? Or is he the kind who even helps his clients cheat?

"We have to find out which of the two kinds of lawyers is Brillantes. And if he is the kind who is involved in cheating, why make him chairman?" Cayetano said.

Lawyer of 'losing candidates'

Cayetano has openly opposed Brillantes' appointment as Comelec chairman because of the latter's record as election lawyer of losing candidates. He grilled Brillantes in his last appearance before the CA.

The senator had earlier accused Brillantes of offering to "take care of the electoral protest against his wife," Dagupan Mayor Lazarita Cayetano, in exchange for the senator's support for his confirmation, a charge Brillantes denied.

'Conflict of interest'

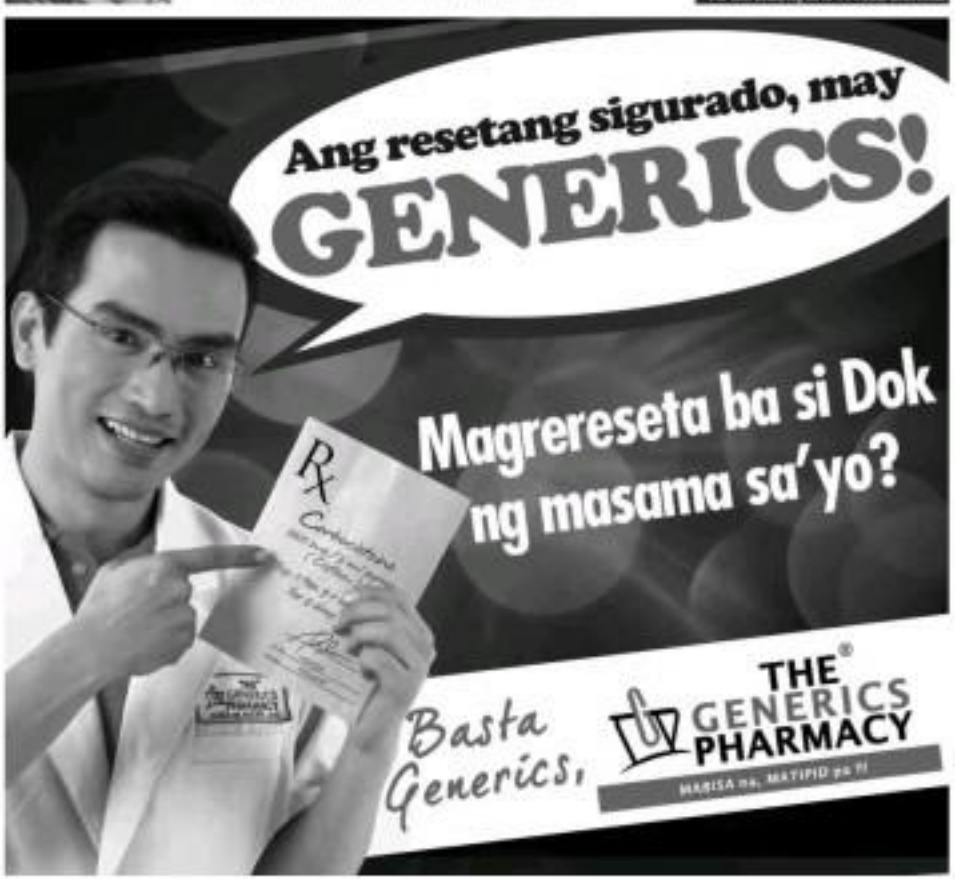
Cayetano pointed out that there are other individuals who have unquestionable integrity and are not facing charges of "conflict of interest," who can nominate the top Comelec post.

"I think they should continuously nominate. Pit bayo dre Palace will look into the final questions we asked in the CA and eventually have their own 'roadmap' toward clean and honest elections," he said.

Cayetano bemoaned that he was unconvinced by Brillantes' statement that he knew the "election operators" and his subsequent appeal on them to "change their ways."

"If we want reform, changing their ways is not enough. We should go after them and put them on trial," he said.

Cayetano mentioned ahead him Malacañang could address on his promise of reform when alleged key players in the "Hello Garci" scandal, including Joy Tersedjano, were still holding office in the Comelec.



Leila gives prosecutors ultimatum

By Marlon Ramos, Jerome Aning and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday issued an ultimatum to state prosecutors to resolve complaints that they are handling within the prescribed 60-day period.

De Lima cited in particular Zamboanga City prosecutors Claudio Bernabe and Alfredo Jimenez Jr. for failing to resolve the case filed against a couple suspected of smuggling P65 million worth of black corals and other endangered marine species out of the country.

Justice President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday demanded that the two prosecutors be dismissed for allegedly acting on the case of the suspect couple, Lee Yi Ming, alias Joe Ming, and the latter's wife, Olivia Lim Li.

The couple reportedly fled the country before the justice department could order the immigration bureau to place them on the immigration watch list.

De Lima said Prosecutor General Claro Arellano had directed Bernabe and Jimenez to explain within 24 hours why they should not be administratively sanctioned for their failure to promptly file cases against Lee and Li.

"We will give them due process and hear them out. The administrative sanctions on them will depend on how satisfactory or unsatisfactory their explanation will be," she said.

If the prosecutors are unable to satisfactorily explain their actions, "we will do whatever is appropriate, which may include dismissal from service," she said.

Lee reportedly took a Cebu Pacific flight to Hong Kong on June 7, two days before the justice department ordered the Bureau of Immigration to place him on its watch list.

Li is believed to have fled to Malaysia, Sen. Miguel Zubiri told a Senate hearing on the smuggling of protected marine species yesterday.

Placed on watch list

Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III signed the DOJ directive that also placed warehouse operators Benny Yu and Huanlo Yu on the watch list.

SI spokesperson Maria Antonette Illan, probing said an earlier DOJ order had placed total smuggling suspects Li, Enguid Marcos, Rizk Abdhani and Ireneo Penalosa on the DOJ watch list.

In Zamboanga City, Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar yesterday said government prosecutors should not be faulted for the delay in the filing of charges against the suspected coral smugglers.

Lee had been arrested back in 2005 for trading in endangered marine species but charges were only filed against him last week.

Li was also charged after trillions of pesos in corals were discovered in a container van she had shipped from Zamboanga. The same kind of contraband were found in subsequent raids on the couple's warehouses.

Cebuano said the cases would not have "slept" if the National Bureau of Investigation had provided them with strong evidence.

He cited the NBI's failure to specify Lee's nationality as one example.

If the prosecutors had been able to build up the cases from the beginning, they would have been watchlisted by now, he said.

"But with the information provided by the NBI, how could we do that?" Cebuano said.

Cebuano also admitted the prosecutors also gave priority to other cases they deemed more serious like terrorism, kidnapping and murder.

He said the DOJ was also planning to file charges Benny and Ruanlo Yu, the couple who owned the warehouses where the marine species were found. Benny said he had rented out the warehouses to Lee and Li.

The gathering of corals and other endangered marine species is a lucrative activity for small fishermen in western Mindanao, according to scholars there.

For fishermen, it is easier than catching fish, said a 66 year-old diver, whose identity has been withheld for his protection.

Up to Michael Ray to put closure to Dacer slay–Ping

By TJ Burgonio

WESTER or not Michael Ray Aquino can bring closure to the 2005 murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, is up to the state himself, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday.

"At the end of the day it's his decision [as he] what kind of defense to put up. If he knows something and decides to tell it, that's his call. But if he decides to defend his case, depending on what he knows, God's [also] his call," Lacson said in an interview over dzBB radio.

The US Department of State has approved Aquino's extradition to the Philippines to face investigation as a prime suspect in the 2005 murders, in which Lacson had also been implicated but was later cleared by the Court of Appeals.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court dismissed an appeal of the appellate court's ruling clearing Lacson in the Dacer-Corbito case.

"Thank God. Now I can focus on my work. I can perform my duties as a senator without the proverbial sword of Damocles hanging over my head," Lacson told reporters.

14 months in hiding

Lacson went into hiding for 14 months after an arrest warrant was issued against him. He surfaced last March after the Court of Appeals dismissed the warrant, saying there was not enough evidence to charge him.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said Aquino's return would bring the case one step closer to resolution. She said the Department of Justice could start a reinvestigation once Aquino was back in the country.

De Lima said the Angel Aquino scandal (early) on the possible involvement of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (Pacer) in the killings. Lacson was head of Pacer13 at the time. Aquino and another former police superintendent, Cezar Mancao II, were his subordinates.

Both Aquino and Mancao fled to the United States after the Dacer-Corbito killings. Mancao has since returned and implicated Lacson as a mastermind in the murders. He also implicated former President Joseph Estrada, who has denied any involvement.

Fair trial

Lacson, who admitted being in touch with Aquino's family in the US, said Philippine authorities should accord Aquino a fair trial and detain him in a safe facility.

"We should be given a fair trial, fair treatment, after all he served as a low ranking for years. They should take into consideration (where to detain him since he has attained) old [also] many criminals. They should not mix him in with criminals he had put in jail, where his personal security would be jeopardized," he said.

Extending financial help

The senator said he was communicating by text with Aquino's wife, Shalani Soledad, and extending financial assistance to the family.

"If they want to contact somebody, I facilitate that. If there's an opportunity to extend financial help to the mother and child, I also do that," he said, adding: "If he wants to talk with me, that's not a problem. He has worked for me before."

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Correction

IN THE JUNE 6 ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A17—"Court orders cop car massacre case ragged freedom Dated"—misspelled the first name of an associate justice of the Court of Appeals. The associate justice is Danilo—not Danielo—Bruselas.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Pre Building, Ellipse Road corner 25th Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City; fax 896-60-20/892-0804; e-mail address inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

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The Daily Gospel

JUNE 15 (Wednesday)
Psalter-Week 2
11th Week in Ordinary Time
Ps 112: Ps. 5, 8-9, 9
Blessed is the man who fears the Lord.

1st Reading: 2 Cor 9:6-11

Brothers and sisters: Remember, the one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and those who sow generously will reap generously. Each one should give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for cheerful giving God loves. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always, in all things, having all that you need, you may share generously in every good work.

As it is written: He has distributed, he has given to the poor; his good deed endures forever. God who provides seed to the sower and will also provide him with the bread he eats, he will multiply the seed for you and also increase the harvest of your good works. You are made rich in every way, for good generosity, that you give will become, through us, a thanksgiving to God.

Gospel: Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be careful not to make a show of your righteousness before people. If you do so, you do not gain anything from your Father in heaven. When you give something to the poor, do not have it announced [publicly] as you, as do those who want to be seen by the synagogues and in the streets in order to be praised by the people. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. If you give something to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift remains really secret. Your Father who sees what is kept secret, will reward you. When you pray, do not be like those who want to be seen. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues or on street corners in order to be seen by others. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is with you in secret; and your Father who sees what is kept secret will reward you.

"When you fast, do not put on a miserable face as do the hypocrites. They put on a gloomy face, so people can see that they are fasting. I tell you that they have been paid in full already. When you fast, wash your face and make yourself look cheerful, because you are not fasting for appearances or for people, but for your Father who sees hidden appearances; and your father, who sees what is kept secret will reward you."

Reflection:

On "display" in our world, is the abundance only taken a moment, a single act of foolishness that people see us, or can we maintain that we have worked for it in an extra vigilance. Injunction: take a lifetime to build, seconds to destroy. We think that our good works must be seen by those who are bound to. Our good act is to be publicized. We think that we will be loved rightly if they see how good we are. It's the Lord Jesus who discerned what are in the beauty of living hidden. God can never be shocked because he sees deep beyond what we see by our eyes "display." Never be an actor. The beauty of the hidden ones of our good works lies in our unwavering confidence in God's unconditional love.

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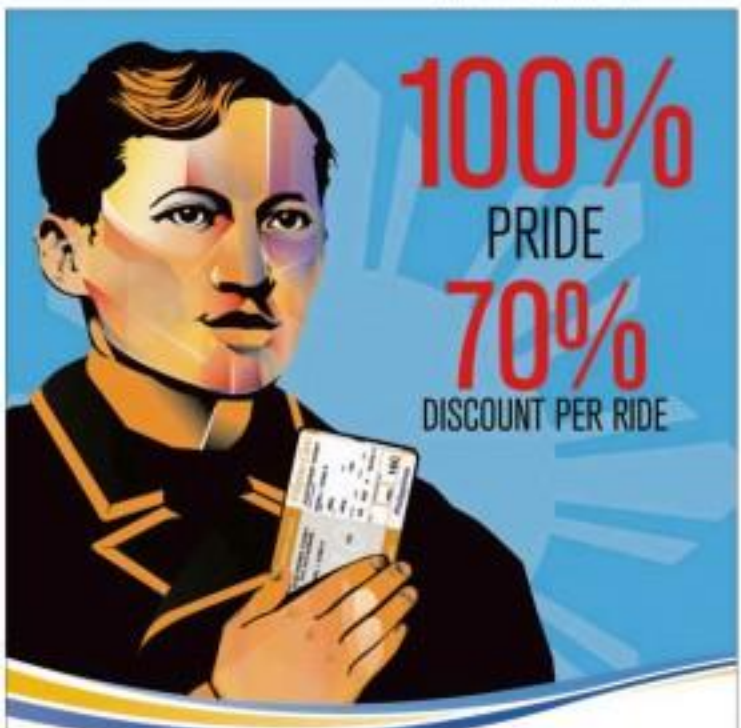

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Ex-general, other RSBS execs found guilty of graft

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday convicted retired Brig. Gen. Jose Ramirez and three other officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS) of graft charges for overpaying property that the agency had purchased.

Ramirez, who used to head the AFP-RSBS, was also found guilty of falsification of public documents for the same transactions.

Those convicted of graft along with Ramirez were former AFP-RSBS officials Mercedes Bello, head of the legal division; Manuel Sr. Batista, chief of documentation, and Capt. Roberto Quilaco Jr., the project officer.

The four officials were sentenced to six to 10 years' imprisonment and ordered to pay the AFP-RSBS P1.104 million.

Ramirez was also sentenced to another two to six years' imprisonment and fined P5,000 for his falsification conviction.

The fourth AFP-RSBS official cited in the motion for reconsideration, according to their lawyers,

In its ruling penned by Justice Jose Hernandez, the Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division found the officials liable for causing the disbursement of P1.33 million for property in Tanauan, Batangas, which was sold for only P227,460.

"As it turned out, the documentation of the transaction was manipulated purposely to allow the disbursement of amounts over and above the actual purchase price," it said.

It noted that there were two deeds of sale issued for the same property, indicating different purchasing costs: P227,460 and P1.33 million.

Manipulated

It said the first deed of sale bearing the lower purchasing cost was used to register the transaction and to pay the registration fee and other taxes. The other deed of sale bearing the P1.33 million purchase price was used to seek disbursements from the AFP-RSBS.

It said that it considers the P227,460 as the actual selling price for the land owners, since it was the basis for the transfer of the title to the AFP-RSBS.

According to the court, it could not give weight to the testimony of lot owner Glicerio Plaza that he received over a million pesos in payment because the deed of sale with the lower amount was duly recognized in the he should be remanded before the Register of Deeds and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

There was also no obligation for the first deed of sale was rescinded, and Plaza's testimony could not override what was on the document.

The court also justified the officers' contention that the payment of P1.33 million was justified **because the Board had approved the purchase.**

It said the Board's approval did not contain a **provision on the definite selling price of the** property, and that the mentioned guaranteed **price in the documents was not the selling price.**

As for the conviction of the officers that **they had not known of the P227,460 selling** price, the court said this was a breach of duty **because it was their obligation to determine** how much the AFP-RSBS was obliged to pay **for the lot. It noted that the information** about the selling price was in the document **showing the transfer of the title to the agency.**

It also noted there was a board meeting when the purchase was discussed that the average price of the lot, and not its actual price, was the amount used in the documentation. Subsequently, the Board decided to undo the documentation to correct the previous transactions.

It said Bellicard Gumtang, who were in the board meeting, should have made an immediate response when the call for verification of documents was made, especially if their duties of assurance and good faith were true.

But their mode of correction, it added,

Pinatubo at 20: Rebuilding still unfinished task

From page A1

disaster-related issues, a government evaluation appears called for.

No to dependency

For instance, sociologists have warned against breeding dependency so that the people themselves can participate in long-term development. Agriculturists have stressed the urgency of resolving farms and ponds for food security.

Agrarian reform advocates favor land distribution. Some businessmen have called for genuine integration of disaster management in development planning.

In the absence of any official assessment by the government, the locales turned to farmers, fishers and local leaders for answers it asked the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways for a report on investments and their impact.

Taking a gamble

The Balitags said they were "barely starting" with recovery.

Last year, they moved back to the upper Tarlac in Bamban town to resume farming on 4 hectares land they obtained through agrarian reform before the 1991 eruptions. They left a house the government had given them at a resettlement site in Madapdap, 40 kilometers from Tarlac, terming it to their three children, who work as laborers and pedicab drivers.

The Balitags are taking a gamble because rice farming is not suitable on land covered with lahar, or volcanic mudflows.

Lands in Tarlac are not very fertile, said Alejandro Singco.

Village at risk

The Balitags and the Negals are among the seven families now living in Tarlac. Some 14,000 other families still live in resettlement sites located in urban areas, Negal said.

The village remains at risk. The dike is made only of sand and some 300 meters on its stretch have not been plugged.

"At least we have a land to till. In Madapdap, we hardly get by. We hope life is better here," Balitag said.

"We haven't bounced back. There has been no good income of (returns)," Negal said. "It's building's isn't over yet."

Absence of livelihood

Benigno Tolentino and his wife Clarinda share the same sentiments.

Tolentino, 72, believes the rebuilding process for farmers like him has been delayed by the "absence of livelihood and farmlands in resettlement areas and with family-built governments."

Old timers at the Department of Agriculture said the government should not be blamed. They said helping farmers in danger zones was like encouraging them to stay there.

The Tolentinos left the Bamban resettlement site and returned to Barangay Dear 16 years ago. By doing so, they moved closer to danger because Dear is near the transverse dike of the PHIVOLCS.

The government built the U-shaped, 56-km dike to trap lahar within the Sta. Rita-Porac River and prevent this from spilling in the Pampanga capital of San Fernando.

The dike slows the flow of water and lahar downstream.

Clarinda, 69, likes it in Dear because her family has a steady supply of vegetables to eat and sell. She also maintains a small store there.

Bacolor situation

But Pedro Garcia, 72, could not return to grow rice in Dear. The mountains stalled agrarian reform in the town, preventing him from cultivating the 4 ha he had tilled for 36 years.

Most landowners rent out their plots to big-time sugarcane growers.

Bacolor has not totally recovered, said former Pampanga Board Member Niko Cabalfin.

"Much of the population is still dispersed in resettlements," Cabalfin said.

"We were agricultural based before so many tourists are unaware of their income in big parts of lands. The big landlords are absent. Many (tenants) don't have money to grow crops or fish. Many are already old. There are few jobs in the town."

Cabalfin is leading campaigns to save Bacolor from being reassigned as a catch basin of lahar to save San Fernando, the commercial capital.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, Bacolor is just 4 insofar as rebuilding is concerned," he said.

Aetas still poor

Living next to sources of opportunities, such as the Clark Freeport and the Clark Special Economic Zone (Sarobba subzone), does not guarantee that a community can return to a normal life or its better, according to Aeta elders.

Juan Tangdan, 70, and Benita Sibal, 65, said they remained poor although the lands in Clark were within their ancestral domain.

Clark Development Corp. (CDC) gives them little help and is a party to their displacement, they said. The CDC cluster adhere it to develop the 4,400 ha main zone and the 33,000 ha Sacobia subzone.

CDC officials complain of difficulty in negotiating with Aetas either because they are not united or unable to articulate well what they want.

Ancestral domain

Aeta elder Jeanlito Lacanilao, 72, said Congress had not ratified the issue of subsidies Clark, a former US military base, was an ancestral domain of the Aetas.

"While the Philippine Commission on Indigenous Peoples] gave us a title to over 10,000 ha [in Sacobia], some 70 percent of this area now is held by lowlanders and the lands are being leased by the CDC to foreign and local investors," Lacanilao said.

Aetas who are organized appear to have fared better.

Mounting the most organized resistance was from Sinolian ahead of the 1991 eruptions. De Leon na Aleman ng mga Kumabong Ayta na Siniladen (Lakas) has often been overcome on where the lahar must travel.

From there, they began a campaign to get a certificate of ancestral domain title for 15,998 ha, including the summit of Pinatubo.

Issued last year, the certificate covers four villages on the upper flanks of Pinatubo in Botolan town and portions of Cabangan, San Felipe and San Marcelino towns. The domain is reserved for 1,300 families or 4,270 Aetas.

They have warded off extension projects by Botolan to preserve the lands for younger Aetas, said Lakas chair Cirilito Bermudez.

But the few resources they have make efforts to recover from the 1991 eruptions a "mammoth task," he said.

At mercy of traders

Those in Capas, Tarlac, appear to be seeing well the resources that Pinatubo's blast left in its wake.

Some 500 men and women, many of them Aetas in Barangay Sta. Juliana, work as guides, porters and customers to tourists. Others earn a living gathering pumice stones for guest-manned towns.

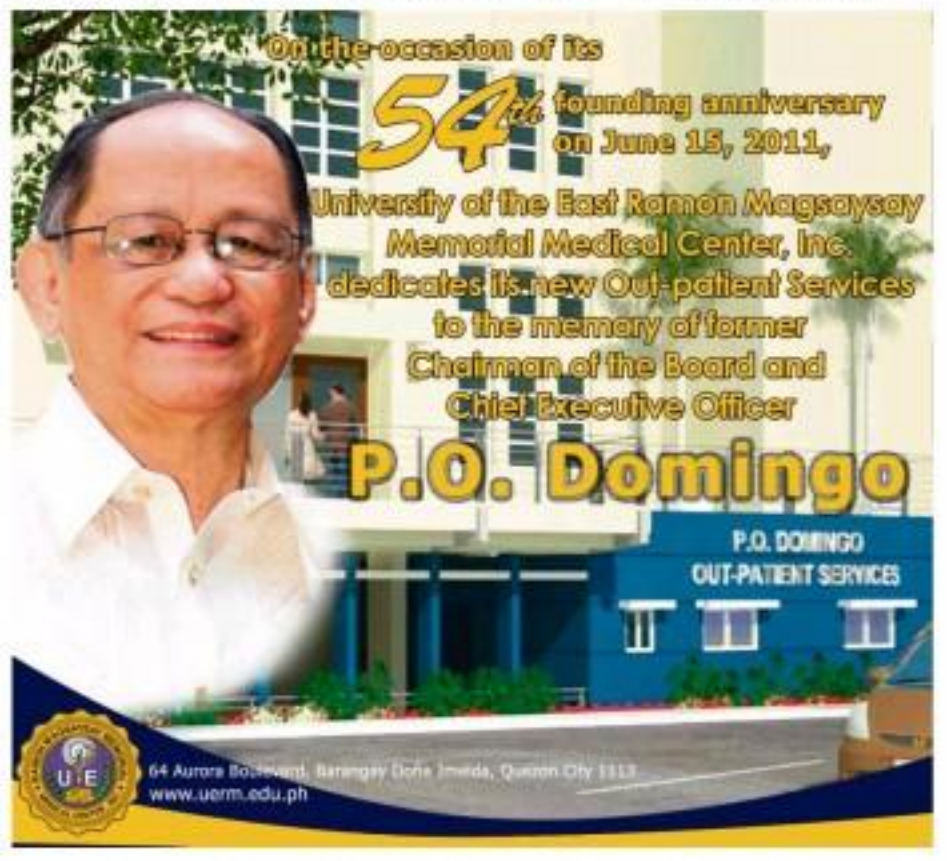
Their stay in the Pinatubo forests is uncertain owing to the designation of the place as a military reservation and to moves by a hunting range by American military forces.

Many Aetas have left the resettlement areas for the uplands to grow food and cash crops again.

"The Aetas, up to now, are so poor. We are still at the mercy of traders who dictate the prices. The ancestral domain is still not ours," tribal leader Nelson Pangilinan said.

(Tomorrow: Zambales left out in Pinatubo rebuild)

IN YEARS AFTER A canyon of sandbar-dotted (left) erosion shallow waters in Ogsiw village, Botolan, Zambales, which used to be dry land before 1991, Pinatubo's eruption transformed the landscape in 1991. AP



PH-Saudi talks on maid's pay fail

By Philip C. Tubeza

DESPITE PROMISES of "labor reforms" from Saudi officials, the suspension of the deployment of Filipino domestic helpers to Saudi Arabia remains with Saudi and Philippine labor officials failing to get agreement on the minimum salary level for such workers.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz met with her Saudi counterpart, Adel M. Fakeih, on the sidelines of the ongoing 100th International Labor Organization conference in Geneva, but that no agreement was concluded, Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz said yesterday.

Last March, the Saudi government suspended the deployment of Filipino maids to the oil-rich kingdom after the Philippine government set the minimum monthly salary for domestics at $400.

The Saudis asked that the rate be halved but Philippine labor officials said the $400 mandatory monthly wage cannot be lowered as this was the rate being implemented not just in Saudi Arabia but also in other countries where Filipino domestics are employed.

In a statement following her meeting with Fakeih, Baldoz said there was a need to improve the "system of protection within existing and new laws for low-skilled workers, including household service workers, in both countries."

She and the Saudis had promised to implement labor reforms, meaning that "a new era of change and progress" in labor and employment had begun in the kingdom, where at least one million Filipino overseas workers are deployed.

"The new measures will benefit both Saudi Arabia and foreign workers, including OFWs, who constitute an important segment of the Saudi workforce," Baldoz quoted Fakeih as saying.

The labor secretary said that the proposed Saudi reforms include the recognition of "intermediary hiring firms" that will serve as sponsors and employers of workers and who will be responsible for their welfare and protection; a "mandatory broad-range orientation" for domestics with the provision to be paid for by employers; a new remittance scheme to reduce remittance costs; and the expansion of e-government facilities, including the extension of 24/7 liquidity facilities for employment certificates (OECs).

Fakeih said she also discussed with Baldoz the hiring of nurses and his possible visit to the Philippines this year.

Managing eco-tourism up at Subic meet

THE PHILIPPINES is taking the lead among Asian countries in developing experts on the planning and management of eco-tourism, according to Mina T. Gabot, president of the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) and former tourism secretary.

Managed well, eco-tourism can create more local employment, support local economies and host remote tourism without the negative effects of mass tourism on cultural heritages and the environment, Gabot said.

Up to 24 trainees from the Philippines and 16 other Asian countries are participating in the two-week training course sponsored by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO).

Running from June 13 to 24, the course will be held at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center and ISST in Subic Bay Freeport in Olongapo City.

APO is a Tokyo-based regional organization devoted to enhancing productivity in Asian countries. For the eco-tourism course, implementing organizations are Development Academy of the Philippines, Department of Tourism and ISST. The Colombo Plan Secretariat is co-sponsor.

The course will consist of lectures, case studies, workshops, visits to tourism promotion organizations and local communities, and onsite practical exercises.

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PEOPLE'S CHAMP
Lilet Matias, Sarangani Governor Miguel Dominguez and Rep. Manny Pacquiao are all smiles after the country's lone congressional representative joined hands with Gov. Migs Dominguez and Aksyon Agricultural Corporation executive vice president Alex Alcantara of the Alcantara Group (left, top photo) in providing five million Sarangani bangus by-to replenish Laguna stock decimated by the recent MAHI in Quezon City on Tuesday. He also held talks with leaders of the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno led by Josalyn's Rep. Rafael Mariano (previous page, inset photo) in demanding a P125 across-the-board increase in daily wages.

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DOTC execs reaffirm support for P-Noy

By Paolo G. Montecillo

OFFICIALS from the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) reaffirmed their support for President Aquino amid allegations that Malacañang had meddled in key policy issues that eventually pushed Secretary Jose de Jesus to resign.

In a statement yesterday, transportation undersecretaries Jesus M. Velasco and Dr. Jose Aragon said they were outraged by "spin doctors" in a concerted effort to discredit the President for "malicious" political gain.

"They put two and two together and came up with five," he said.

Reports earlier this week quoted an undisclosed transport source saying or alleging that the President had ordered the DOTC to cancel the procurement contract with Mobile-one Corp., the Land Transportation Office's (LTO) card-terminal administrator for backup provider.

The order allegedly was counter to a memo by De Jesus, which said canceling the Mobile-one contract and reverting back to manual operations would be detrimental to the public.

Interpeded LTO head Virginia Torres, a close friend of the President, earlier warned the agency's personnel of the possibility of going back to manual operations for card-related exercise.

The memo was sent to Hindelang on May 23, a week before De Jesus' resignation became public.

But Velasco said the President had never issued such an order to the DOTC, and that allegations that De Jesus resigned because of this supposed disagreement was "erroneous, malicious, and misleading."

Velasco said he was in agreement with De Jesus' statement that for conference to hold Mr. Aquino in high esteem, and that his relationship with the Aquino family remained strong and cordial.

He said that many dedicated career experts were "reduced by spin doctors out to drive a wedge between the DOTC management team and the President."

Velasco is one of the three DOTC undersecretaries that have announced plans to leave with De Jesus.

De Jesus' resignation will take effect on June 30. He will be replaced by the President's defeated running mate, Mamad Sinsuat, who vowed the DOTC office for the first time on Thursday.

"We briefed him on several issues, but he (Sinsuat) kept his comments to himself," Velasco said.

A briefing memo obtained by the Inquirer on Tuesday showed Sinsuat was briefed by key officials on the possible renegotiation or cancellation of the controversial Northrail and Greater Manila-Cavite (GMA) project contracts.

Sinsuat was also briefed on the upcoming establishment of the Iloilo-Antique Iloilo Metro Manila-to-Naga City in Bicol.

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'No-fly' zone for toy planes, kites, birds around Naia eyed

By Julie M. Aurelio

AIRPORT authorities want the 23-km radius of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport declared a no-fly zone ... days after kites, toy planes and domestic birds.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) said a Parañaque City proposal to extend the radically area from the existing one mile radius to a 2.5-mile (4-km) radius was not enough.

In an interview, airport grounds operations and safety division chief Joseph Agustin said the area is not enough to protect the airport.

MIAA has forwarded its recommendation to Parañaque City councilor Rizalde Mercado, who is authoring the proposal to extend the ban.

Rizalde, in his initial proposal, sought the extension of the ban on flying kites or remote-controlled radio-model aircraft and the breeding of pigeons and other domestic birds to a 4-km radius.

The extension of the ban could avert the worst case scenario of a bird/radio colliding an aircraft and forcing it to land in residential areas in Parañaque City, he considered.

Airport officials said they were also pushing for a similar ban on kites, lasers and spotlights because "these innocuous distract pilots while in the air."

MIAA officials met with airline executives last Friday to discuss incidents of bird strikes and other similar accidents.

MIAA general manager Jose Angel Honrado had written city mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. regarding the matter, Agustin added.

"We will be coordinating with other nearby local governments surrounding us, but we first coordinated with Parañaque City," the official said.

The proposed measure will be the subject of several briefings and public consultations before it is approved by the city council.

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OPINION

GOCC watch

EDITORIAL

A "LEGACY legislation" as well as a "quantum leap for corporate governance in our GOCC system." That was how Francis Lim, former president of the Philippine Stock Exchange, hailed Republic Act 10149, even before it was passed by Congress. The law is, in fact, the first major piece of legislation successfully pushed by the Aquino administration to support his war on corruption.

Strangely though, in stark contrast to the hallroom of public anger that prompted its enactment, RA 10149 hardly made a blip on the radar screen of national consciousness when it was signed into law by President Aquino last June 6. Or so it seemed, judging by the tepid reaction it drew from both the media and the public. Which could also be said of the phlegmatic response to President Aquino's mention of RA 10149 in his Independence Day speech last Sunday in Kawit, Cavite, as he vowed a new era of graft-free and truly free Philippines.

Rewind to July 2010. Barely a month in power, the Aquino administration uncovered clusters of skeletons in government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), including government financial institutions (GFIs). Directors and other officers of many of these corporations had been privileging themselves, as if the sky was the limit, with lucrative fringe benefits on top of their salaries, such as bonuses, ridiculously labeled as "productivity," "anniversary," "grocery," even "privatization," to name a few—on top of excessive salaries and extravagant allowances. One GOCC is said to have rewarded its officers and employees with at least 25 bonuses in one year, a number of which were of exactly the same nature, albeit differently named.

These extra benefits came in "humanly unsavory," in Sen. Franklin Drilon's, put it, costing Filipinos possibly hundreds of millions of pesos. Worse, many GOCCs were not earning for the government and were in fact wallowing in debts, and relying solely on government subsidy for operations, if not for survival. Yet, in some cases where profits accrued from their investments, the governance got only so much share of the returns as its trustee deemed fit.

Even in a nation long inured to corruption, the revelations came as a shock, perhaps because the abuses, to every instance, were so wantonly done like they were the most normal and proper thing in the world. As more irregularities were revealed in the Senate hearings that followed, Filipinos watched in a daze, trying to understand how such blatant, unrestrained greed, waste and corruption could have escaped the attention of concerned agencies and higher authorities.

Divided as "spoils of war" among a victorious presidential candidate's supporters and allies regardless of room, pretense and expertise, the GOCCs were easily turned into milking cows. Reports said 26 of the more than 160 GOCCs and GFIs in existence were "underperforming, unnecessary or losing," their total liabilities amounting to P480 billion.

Precisely meant to restore sanity in the GOCC system, RA 10149, also known as the GOCC Governance Act of 2011, gives the government greater control over GOCCs, promotes transparency in their operations, and puts an end to the culture of patronage that has defined its lopsided relship. For this purpose, the law creates the Governance Commission for Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations (GCG), which "shall be primarily the reorganization, merger, streamlining, privatization and even the abolition of the agencies," in the Aquino proposal. With this task comes the power to screen and recommend, for presidential appointment, nominees to GOCC management positions, as well as to monitor and evaluate their performance.

But if the opportunities that the law presents are many, so are its pitfalls. For one, while RA 10149 inspires public confidence in the President's resolve to live up to his "daang matuwid" standard, it raises the demand for him to prove his ability to deliver on that promise.

Take Sec. 17, on the term of office of GOCC directors. Given one year, unless sooner removed for cause, an "appointive director shall continue to hold office until the successor is appointed," "[t]o prevent interruptions in key functions in the past, a practice widely disdained by the public but which the President is, unfortunately, increasingly seen to be doggedly clinging to.

The administration touts RA 10149 as the most important law enacted under the Aquino administration. The public should watch very closely how the administration implements this reform measure.

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Why not a total mining ban?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TUBBO D more a total moratorium among 27 applications for the position of Davaoenos after Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's rampant order that is expanded. The acting ombudsman now is Orlando Casimiro, one of the 27 nominees. The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) will screen the applicants and submit a list of three to sixty July to President Aquino, who will have to appoint one of them within one month.

In the short time that he has been acting ombudsman, Casimiro has acted to throw out before the people gambling at different times of the years, when nothing seemed to move in the Office of the Ombudsman. Unlike his predecessor, Casimiro seemed to be more interested with his responsibilities to the people.

Now there is a chance for government to remove more PHI million worth of unexplained wealth from former military comptroller Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot and his family after Casimiro ordered forfeiture proceedings against Ligot. The forfeiture proceedings will allow the government to repossess the unexplained bank deposits and investments which were allegedly part of the Ligots' unexplained wealth.

This is in contrast with the plea bargaining agreement that the Office of the Ombudsman under Conchita Carpio Morales had with former military comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia where only about P135 million of the P500 million that he allegedly amassed illegally would be returned to the people.

Under that plea bargaining agreement, Garcia pleaded guilty to only one offense of direct bribery and violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Law, instead of plunder.

Days before his assumption into office, Casimiro ordered the dismissal of his colleagues, Deputy Ombudsmen Emilio Gonzalez III, acting up to the decision of Malacañang. Gonzalez had refused to obey President Aquino's order and even acquitted Garcia.

Also, the Office of the Ombudsman finally acted on the case against Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) Chair Gilda Pesayco Pefianco, an ally of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Arroyo.

Pefianco was placed under a six-month preventive suspension for his alleged misuse of LBP-A funds in the acquisition of a troubled debt bank in 2008.

Casimiro said it is imperative to immediately suspend Pefianco "as the need for procurement measures against possible abuse of the prerogatives of the office may escalate under the circumstances."

The suspension came after some LBP officials filed the complaint against Pefianco and others. The LBP officials also alleged that the transaction unlawfully authorized a payment of P2 million to increase the authorized capital stock of the debt bank.

Casimiro added that the respondents violated RIP Circular 308 when they did not secure the approval of the Monetary Board on the sale of shares of stocks before disbursing P482 million of LBP-A funds.

Also recently, the Office of the Ombudsman filed criminal charges against the former governors of Metro Iloilo and Camarines Norte and other ranking persons in office.

Casimiro ordered Special Prosecutor Jesus Ill, to continue Bongabon Mayor Amelia Castilla, and former Mayor Eduardo Basilio Jonas were criminally charged for two counts of violation of Sec. 3 of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, or Republic Act 3019 for giving unwarranted benefits or preference to certain persons when their services were allowed Aurin.

Casimiro also ordered the filing of charges against former Gov. Jesse Tupaz Jr., provincial health officer Arnulfo Salcedo, provincial accountant Cesar Ortiz, former CEO Reyno D. Isla Pascual, and Angelina Cabrera, former representative of Camarines Druggists and medical supply in Peru, Camarines Norte, for violation of Sec. 3 of RA 3019, and for falsification of public documents.

The three officials allegedly gave unwarranted benefits to Camarines Druggists when the latter was the supplier of the provision of Camarines Norte in 2005 even before the opening of bids was made.

+++

Promises, promises, not missing. This was the message of entertainment advocate Elma Lopez, managing director of the MILLION Foundation, to the people of Cubinar, Eastern Samar. With tourism, the environment and biodiversity of a place it grows evil and even developed, with mining, the environment is destroyed.

Indeed, we should have a total mining ban. We have a total log ban, why not a total mining ban? Mining is more destructive of the environment than logging. Logs a logged-over area for several years and trees will grow again, but a mined-over area will remain the same for decades.

We saw the destruction of forests by logging when it was already no ban. Now our mountains are bald and landslides bury entire communities every rainy season in a destructive typhoon. Let us not wait to see the destruction that mining does to the environment. We have already seen that in Oriang, Marinduque and other mining areas.

Let us not be impressed by dreams of wealth supposedly to be brought about by mining. Gold fishing has been going on for decades in Benguet, but it has not benefited the Igorots, only the businessmen in manila. Let us keep our minerals in the ground, the same way that United States is keeping its Alaskan oil underground. The longer we keep them there, the more valuable they become. Once the minerals have been extracted, we are left with nothing, but the miners, and hanging and drug wars in their midst.

All the nations who developed their countries have progressed. Yet there who relied on mining, lagged behind.

Persistence

THERE'S THE RUB

Commodore de Quiroz

MOST PEOPLE I know frowned when, Professor Antonio Contreras compared cheats of the great Chicago team of Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman, whose faces and figures adorned local posters cheerfully plastered on the walls and ceilings of jeepneys and buses. Which is more than what we have lovingly painted ours down, along with Dick and Bert Ave's shameful use in vain obstruction in the form of LeBron James, Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh.

But the only thing I would be arguing for Miami now to watch, like Spoelstra. In case you still don't know, Spoelstra is half Filipino. Sixfeetsix, 100, has Dutch-Irish origins, while his mother, Irma Urbino, hails from San Pablo, Laguna. I'm surprised he hasn't been featured in the Inquirer's weekly community in local media. He's eminently one huge success story as success stories go, and one available PR fan as PR hungry.

It's impressive how he has managed to get as far as he has. He was almost himself once, and the organization he is part of, the Miami Heat, team have taken epic shift and even more epic effort given that he isn't particularly tall. He can see that in his players cowering over last during tradition. But he has the brains, or has learned IQ, to make up for his lack of height by more strength the task of coaching by showing an same time-honored fact. "Also of players' team the discipline," and Pat Riley when he named Miami core to him, "they will play fourth he Spoelstra, because they respect him.... He's a man that you listen to seriously."

But I'll leave him for another day. There's a more inspiring story there. There's a story that should ring bells in the hearts of Filipinos.

That's the story of Dallas.

Everyone's on the basketball court right of to they were the championship. Jason Kidd's lead with Dallas ready to the questions of what it took to win the championship. It was, he said, the individual stories of the Mavericks star. It was the story of Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Kidd, Shawn Marion, and himself. It was the story of their coach, Rick Carlisle. It was the story of the people who were laughed at for believing in them.

And they were well on their way to it. Up 13 points with only five more minutes or so into the game, they were bumping them and rebounding it up on the court. And then everything changed. Slowly, unbearably, interminably, Dallas started erasing it, inch by long inch, point by meager point, then by impossible shot. The last, courtesy of Dwayside Johnny who had the unnecessary gasping for breath, and superb irony, as the unbelievable saved his team. Finally, the would-be winning shot, and Miami were knew what the hell.

"Persistence," Nowitzki would say after the game. "Persistence," he sometimes would say after the game. "Persistence," he would would say after the game. "Persistence," he would would say after the game. The thing was that Mavericks knew they were behind, they knew the lead looked formidable, they knew Miami was formidable. But they had been in that place before, they had to do that before, and always there had fought back, always they had battled back. They were just too damned persistent.

The rest of the games would feel anticlimactic after that. The second game was the Battipaint, the morning pulse, the characters defining the game. Dallas was playing with a sense of urgency, stopping their ball in front to keep Miami in, and they were

Reset Turkey-EU relations

WORLD VIEW

Javier Solana

BEIJING—JUST five months ago, Osama bin Laden was alive, Hosni Mubarak was firmly in control in Egypt, and Elie el-Midlaar Ben Ali ruled Tunisia with an iron hand. Today, popular rebellions and political change have spread throughout the region. We have witnessed brutal repression of protests in Syria and Yemen, Israeli troops shooting into Palestine, and an ongoing battle for Libya.

By February, the "Arab Spring" should reform attention on an issue largely ignored in recent months: the benefits of Turkey's full membership in the European Union, since the overwhelming support for the current government in the country. Nowhere, the advantages for Europe of Turkey's accession should be obvious.

With Prime Tayyip Erdogan now elected as an outlier party in Turkey's prime ministry, and with Poland, a member of the EU, as the country with the largest economy in Europe, the future of Europe's emerging position in the world, assuming the US presidency at the end of the month, now is a time for the Union and Turkey to "reset" their relationship, and launch a new beginning.

The good that Turkey can bring to Europe was made clear before the "Arab Spring." Europe is, by definition, culturally Christian, as obviously is the EU's founding ideal. If Europe is to flourish as an open global citizen, it must become more attractive to other cultures and religions, and to the full potential and energy of the people of Turkey.

Europe today is both larger and different compared to the Europe of 1999, when Turkey was invited to begin the accession process. It is also experiencing a profound economic crisis, which erupted around the same time that the Lisbon Treaty—aimed at accommodating the enlargement—was finally approved. And the treaty, first approved in 2005 and finalized in 2009, would have been in place for six years, and the strain placed by the crisis on EU economic governance—as visible in the eurozone's recent problems—would have been greatly eased accordingly.

But the EU always faces problems, sometimes them, and moves on. Today, we don't have a country, but we are about to have something similar. Similarly, the European Central Bank has capacities today that it did not have throughout the crisis in 2007.

A major challenge that Europe must still face is migration, which will only become a bigger problem over time. Between now and 2050, Europe's workforce will decrease by 70 million. Maintaining our economy requires migration and open EU borders... and having done the popular movements in Europe that would close "unions."

Turkey's history has also changed dramatically since 1999, both politically and economically, and this has much to do with the EU accession process. Indeed, without the assurance of the EU—its "soft" power—such changes would not have occurred.

Economically, Turkey is the 16th-largest economy in the world, and is expected to grow more than 4 percent annually for the next decade. And, particularly, Turkey has emerged as a regional leader, a role that Ankara cautiously welcomes.

With last concluded parliamentary elections, and a new administration set for approval, Turkey is approaching an epochal transition. I was a member of the Spanish Constitutional Commission that wrote the Spanish constitution in 1978 and 1978, following the death of Franco, so I know what it is a moment from dictatorship to democracy—and how important it is that a transition be framed by consensus.

The EU-Turkey relationship began with an association agreement signed in 1963. Now the accession negotiations have started, and 35 "chapters"—covering everything from agriculture to energy, competition, environment, employment, social policy and beyond—must be opened. We have already opened 13 chapters, three that we would like. But the real problem is that we have stood only one, and, worse, the pace of negotiations has slowed. In fact, to the several half of 2010, nothing happened. I hope the incoming progress exists in 2011.

Turkey and the EU need each other. The EU now accounts for 75 percent of foreign investments in Turkey and roughly half its exports and almost overtime. Likewise, Europe's energy security depends on cooperation with Turkey on transit of oil and natural gas from Central Asia and the Middle East.

We need each other politically as well. Turkey's neighborhood is our neighborhood; its problems are our problems. The security benefits and strategic advantages for the EU with Turkey as a member would be many, starting with the inherently beneficial role the EU—and then, of which Turkey has long been a member.

Likewise, the EU's involvement in today's problems in the Mediterranean region would be much more effective with Turkey in Russia Erdogan—the EU-Turkey agreement is fundamental to achieving a durable solution.

In 2000, Turkey did not want to become an accession candidate, because its leaders thought that the EU membership would be too tough. I was there; I talked to Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit at midnight, then to President Süleyman Demirel. And, one night, Turkey went to Helsinki to declare formally Turkey's wish to become an EU candidate. The next day, I signed the agreement that document, I would do the same today.

In these times, difficult and unpredictable but full of hope, the world needs Turkey and the EU to work together. That does not mean moving away now and then to decide how to handle a certain problem. It means something much deeper and more difficult: a true strategic partnership. That is why we must, and I will continue to fight to make it a reality.

Javier Solana, formerly the European Union's high representative for foreign and security policy, and a former secretary general of Nato, is distinguished senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution, and president of the ESADE Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics.

The girls and women of Ethiopia

AT LARGE

Ryan Jimenez-David

of their household and their farm staff.

In Narra's life, I have yet to view Addis outside the walls of the Hilton, which sits next to a garden sowing and a small "village" of shops, including a tiny supermarket. But the view from my room—row upon row of a jumble of skyscrapers and houses against a backdrop of mountains. In fact, the weather is cool and a bit damp, with sudden bursts of rainfall in the afternoon.

Another thing I learn about Ethiopia I learned from my city host: its timeframe or style. Its calendar is only seven years back. Working our way on foot through the Piz Dolorosa, or the path that Jesus took on the way to Golgotha, we ducked to see a small, dark church that was administered by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Interestingly, I would later learn that Ethiopia is one of the oldest Christian countries in the world (dating back to 4 A.D.) and that more than 70 percent of the population belongs to the Orthodox Church while about 30 percent are Muslims.

* * *

Still of the more remarkable things I have observed from my city host was that he is Addis Ababa is how the women so unusually look like each other. Most of them are tall and willowy with dusky skin tones. Today I learned why: Ethiopia—beginning with the flight attendants of the Ethiopian Airlines flight, to the staff and guests at the hotel—more with a great and self-possession that I can only envy.

I read about the disturbed sexual crime report that "Ethiopian girls fight their marriages" which reportedly covered the rate of members of "The Ethics," described as a group of women global lost from there, it is difficult for me to speak of persons who are dead or have disappeared."

Vital would not recognize their sodas many of us remember of most old glass bulb after the can were destroyed during World War II. He would also be surprised that the Coca-Cola Company, one of many Filipinos, working around.

There are many Asian communities in Berlin, but I found only one that serves Filipino food. While in Germany Vital says, "German food is not disagreeable, only it is not to my taste." Filipino restaurants, he says, are of high quality and might prosper if they serve one with pure taste and real meat."

When he moved to Germany he recounted:

"Soon I had an entirely different life from what I had left. I am married to the business with several cooks to help me—this is Fr. Carl's main business work. I value flavors. Breakfast served at the house starts me 40 pfennigs. I have lunch in the restaurant, for 2 rolls. I'll roasted duck give me soup, duck dishes, dessert, and wine, besides potatoes, salad, vegetables and other accessories. I'll soon be used that German cooking is all full of vegetables and many things mixed together. At night, I like two small rolls that can have cucumber, cheese, butter, and a piece of sausage or butter. All in all, that business is healthy. Germans have food cost me about DM a month or a little less. Add to these expenses the cleaning, etc. so that for P40 one can live well in Germany. Even doctor's have to help clothes and to travel from time to time."

Vital learned German quickly because he lived with a German family and went to school with the Aamos days. German students welcomed him to their drinking bouts, and in short bottles beforehand a nickname named Mini who showed him the Latin and German way of arriving their language. Vital also learned to play Beethoven's Symphony "Wilhelm Tell" into Tagalog to "Guillermo Tell."

* * *

Comments are welcome to my Facebook Ano Bga:

Rizal and the waitress named Mina

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

Ambie Bautista relieved Germans customers and preparations and the second moved over their heads, including tapioca. It is interesting a language few Filipinos possess. Hmm, ahmbe, but as all days Hmm I have learned by myself, it tastes not that though I have ability in translating written German, on the other hand, I can't speak it. I studied a couple years when I first spend at sea, for my vocation not was accustomed to the sound of the words: it's receive P1,000 I know hmm... diversity for learning. If I receive P600, I shall finish the dictionary, until late, some when may. I already start there and a half months found. Since July 1, after I should have received money. I have been without any and without hmm."

"I don't know how the Candaw question will end. It seems Hmmh will get away with his pensions. It is necessary that we prepare for when they begin to cut off our pensions. Many Filipinos only share are are sure. Wherever they ask me here for our opinion I reply: 'I believe that all Filipinos only wish either to be Spanish or be independent.' I don't know if I have succeeded correctly the wish of our countrymen, but if not, I suppose I haven't left them."

"When I was asked if we would fight in defense of our Spanish flag against the Germans, I answered that we would always fight in fulfillment of our duty and in obedience to our conscience. 'What then would you do if you were sent to fight against me, sir?' Yes' they, I replied, 'it is not our concern and our conscience dictates that we do everything that our duty requires. As I haven't heard any news

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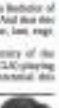
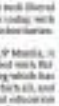
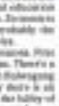
UP LA

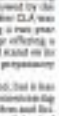
PINOY KASI

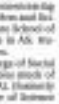
Michael L. Tan

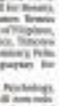


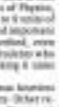












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Solon nixes boycott, seeks more trade with China

By Christine V. Esguerra

IF YOU can't beat them, do more business with them.

Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday summed that up as he opposed calls to boycott Made in China products, the country should instead boost trade and investments with Beijing.

"The right response is to increase our trade and investments with China and privilege, maybe with the right geostrategic caveats, we can get even economically richer from them," he said in a statement.

Recto noted that China remains the country's "biggest trading neighbor." Last year, he said the Philippines imported $7 billion worth of products from China and exported some $6 billion goods.

Trade imbalance

He said the Philippines should now work to close the $900 million trade imbalance with China. He said doing so would be a "big economic victory more meaningful than trying to trash one of their vessels."

Recto said the country should not be "boxed-in" by the woes of China's purported intrusion into the group of islands in the West Philippine Sea, which are also claimed in part by Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, and Taiwan.

He said the Philippines should "kick ourselves" given its status as among "the emerging economies and lauded by respected global bodies to be in the Top 25 countries with strong economies by 2020."

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda earlier called for a boycott of China-made products in response to China's recent behavior in the disputed territory.

Saber-rattling

"The Speaker's question should be settled peacefully," Recto said. "You can't be saber-rattling with China... We should not only engage China diplomatically but also through business."

But another solon wants the Philippine government to resort to public diplomacy to settle its dispute with China.

Rep. Teddy Casiño, vice chair of the House committee on national security and defense, said that while diplomats tackle the issue using conventional laws, Filipinos must exercise public diplomacy which would help show "that there's a bully in the neighborhood who is misbehaving."

A boycott of China-made products, voicing opinions, making speeches and talking in local and international forums about the ongoing issue are components of public diplomacy intended to "let others (China or the) know that we're not alone," said Casiño in a Dyro-K interview in Manila yesterday.

"While China is emerging as a powerful country, they are very sensitive about their international image and this is where we can hurt them the most... we can focus our efforts by portraying them as a bully who is not behaving as a responsible powerful country," said Casiño.

A million needles

"Public diplomacy is the exercise of the use of a million needles coming from those affected by China's aggressive behavior to pinik China," added Casiño, who once served as army officer.

He said that public diplomacy, separate from state diplomacy being undertaken by the Department of Foreign Affairs, could be initiated through making speeches that can be heard and quoted in international forums and media.

The senior solon put China under international spotlight amid frequent incidents of supposed intrusion of its naval vessels and planes into the territories claimed by the Philippines and other smaller claimants.

While naturally clamoring himself from Aquino's boycott call, Casiño also said such talk would be a "very important component" of public diplomacy.

Challenge of duty

Jalosjos explained that each individual citizen was well within the domain of an empowered people "taking up the challenge of duty."

"I'm not asking you to throw away things made from China you already have but to temporarily stop buying them... no brushes over wooden candles," Jalosjos said yesterday.

China was more or a bang rod if the Philippines would pullout its $6 billion worth of investments in the country, Jalosjos added.

"I am not against the Chinese people, what I am against is its rude totally policy to the Philippines," he said, adding that while others scoffed at his initiative as ridiculous, it was some indications to tell to one's honor to China.

With a report from Marlyn R. Cy

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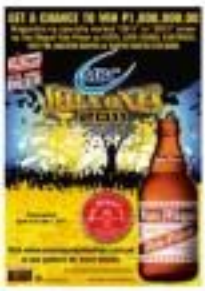
INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Looking beyond Pinatubo eruptions

Is the post-1991 lahar threat over? No one can say with certainty. People of Bataan, Castillejos and San Marcelino must continue to monitor the state of the dikes, must be vigilant during bad weather

By Dr Edvin Rodolfo

(Editor's Note: The author is professor emeritus in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. Born to a Filipina father and a Russian mother, he grew up in Zero Solar and led a multiagency effort to study Mt. Pinatubo's lahar through the 1990s. His book, "Pinatubo and the Politics of Lahar," won a National Book Award in 2005. As the country remembers the 20th anniversary of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991 that changed Central Luzon's landscape and killed the existence of 60 people, Dr. Rodolfo shares his views on what the future holds in Mt. Pinatubo, a sacred abode for the Aetas, home for generations to the region.)



HOW can we predict what Mount Pinatubo will do in the future? We must look to geologic for answers.

Over the past 35,000 years before 1991, Pinatubo experienced six prehistoric eruptions. Each followed a cycle: After centuries of repose, a huge eruption produced huge "pyroclastic flows"—huge, dense clouds of very hot gases and explosive debris that flow down the volcano. Rates or speeds of up to 100 kilometers per hour, killing and burying everything in their paths, and the volcano summit collapsed, leaving in its place a large hole or caldera.

The pyroclastic flows deposit enormous volumes of loose debris on the volcano slopes. During the eruption and in following years, heavy rains loosen the debris previously large, flowing torrents called lahars.

And a lake slowly accumulates in the caldera.

We have observed all these phenomena since the 1991 eruption. But what does the future hold?

If the pattern of previous eruption cycles will be followed, smaller eruptions of lava eventually will fill the caldera and form a new, high-standing dome. But we don't know how many, or how large, these dome-building eruptions will be, and how long this dome-building will last.

Whether the new lahars, the first of three might occur. Where it does, we might expect the rising hot lava to interact explosively with the lake water in the caldera. How big a threat such an event might pose is also uncertain. Phivolcs (the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology) and other volcanologists will monitor vigilantly.

For example, we can reasonably expect rising magma to generate small earthquakes with definite characteristics.

MOUNT Pinatubo spewed out a column of ash on June 12, 1991, leading to its catastrophic eruption three days later. This photo was taken from the Philivolcs' post inside of the Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

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Continue to watch clues

Our volcanologists must not merely occupy themselves with monitoring the various clues of course.

They must continue to seek any clues that might inform us regarding the timings and magnitude of post dome-building episodes.

Looking to the more immediate future. In the year 1995, lahar threat ends? So can we say with certainty.

Looking elsewhere for clues, the Santa Maria volcano in Guatemala is situated in a humid tropical climate very similar to ours. The Santa Maria eruption in 1902 had the same magnitude as that of Pinatubo in 1991. Significant lahars occurred at Santa Maria for the next 20 years.

In 1995, Jean Daniel and I recommended a multidisciplinary, comparative investigation of both volcanoes, a pragmatic approach that would be of value for Filipinos and their descendants alike. It is still not too late to start an investigation, which ideally should involve not only geologists, meteorologists and hydrologists, but historical scientists and social historians as well.

In the meantime, the great volumes of deposits left by past lahars may not have all found their final resting places. We must keep in mind that lahar deposits have often been remobilized into new lahars by welf-placed typhoons in Mayon, Pinatubo and other volcanoes.

We must never forget that the worst Pinatubo lahar calamity was the Typhoon Ondoy/Ketsana disaster in October 2009 that buried the Barobo barangay of Cabalantian in lahar deposits 9 meters thick. These huge lahars did not come directly from Pinatubo's slopes; they were remobilized from deposits thirteen road years earlier had buried the town of Botac, far down the valley of the volcano.

And what are the possible disasters posed by the large amounts of water impounded in Pinatubo's caldera? Beginning in 1991, rain water began to accumulate in the Pinatubo caldera to form a lake. The lake grew larger over the next decade, rising at an average yearly rate of more than 1.3 meters.

Early in the 2001 rainy season, the lake level had increased very close to the lowest part of the caldera rim, or the Hummocks channel in the northwest sector of the volcano down the town of Botolan (Zambales). The government was worried that the lake might overtop the rim and release large quantities of water that would remobilize volcanic debris into catastrophic lahars. Arrangements were created to dispose the Maraunot channel at the caldera rim. The plan was to artificially drain the lake after ascertaining the people of Botolan, in order to protect them from any lahars the released waters might generate.

That effort failed, but heavy typhoon rains in July of the following year breached the thin, artificially releasing 68 million cubic meters of water, which generated the largest lahars to ever occur after the 1991 eruption, with a volume of more than 160 million cubic meters. The thickest deposition occurred lahar-narrow upstream of the town, but typhoons during the following years have since widened them and moved them downstream, devastating Botolan and killing people as recently as 2009 during Typhoon Ondoy."

Exceptional hazard

Could another lake breakout occur? Dutch consultant Lahmeijer believes that only an eruption can make one happen. However, we must remember that the Marcos and Clement failures on old lands that was active during the 1991 eruption. Significant inches along the Hummocks fault, even without an eruption, must be considered as a possible mechanism to breach the caldera rim and release lahar-generating floods. This would be an exceptional hazard because the timing of earthquake-generating fault movements cannot be predicted.

In the southwestern sector of Pinatubo, many small lahars that descended over the years along the Marella and Saint Tomas rivers have been deposited behind a dike built and continually raised to protect Castillejos and San Marcelino towns. When I last inspected the east end of the dike several years ago, the top of the accumulation was only 2 meters below the top of the dike, and more than 15 meters higher than the supposedly protected plain, vulnerable to overtopping by an extraordinary rain event. If the dike were breached, large lahars would threaten both towns. This situation should be reevaluated every year.

The people of Bataan, Castillejos and San Marcelino must continue to monitor the state of the dikes, must be especially vigilant during bad weather, and must have contingency plans taken large typhoons approach.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Iloilo City Hall PH's 'most expensive'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A newspaper publisher has asked the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate alleged overpricing in the construction of the Iloilo City Hall.

In a letter to acting Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro on June 6, Diamond Violan, publisher of the community newspaper The News Today, called on the antigraft body to look into the transaction and the cost of the project.

Violan cited in his letter allegations that the project could result in "grave prejudice to the people "because the project cost, originally set at P350 million, has been increased by P436 million to a total of P655 million.

He said Iloilo City Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog had requested for an additional P260-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines.

"Should this push through, Iloilo City would have one of the most expensive city halls in the country," Violan said in his letter to the Ombudsman.

He said the amount of the cost of the project is "inane beyond belief" claiming that the P40,000-per-square-meter cost of the building is "a gross overprice against the prevailing construction industry standard of P25,000/per square meter."

Violan also requested the Ombudsman to compel Mabilog, former Iloilo City mayor and now Rep. Jerry Treñas, the city council and project contractors 99 Cosa and Feyzmart Filipinas to produce project documents including bidding documents, building plans, bill of materials, scope of works and loan documents.

Mabilog, who is in the United States to attend Philippine Independence Day commemoration ceremonies, has reportedly denied allegations that the project is overpriced.

He earlier said the P260 million is needed for the purchase of furniture, elevators, air-conditioning units and other fixtures which were included in the initial cost of the construction but could not be completed on budget.

In a statement, the city legal office said it welcomes the investigation of the Ombudsman on the alleged overpricing.

"We welcome any case for the public to know the truth. The complainant has the right to file. We have nothing to hide in the city government. The will be the proper forum to clear the issue once and for all," said city legal officer Atty Sunshine Jacinto.

Jacinto said the the city government's lawyers will be ready to answer the allegations.

A records office he assumed office, Mabilog authorized a so-called "Revision of Plans", a list of items worth P1 million worth various in the original city hall contract.

The modifications include the transformation of the second and third floor parking space into offices for two congressmen in anticipation of the city having two congressional districts, additional two elevators, change of wiref tiles to ceramic tiles, generators, office partitions and furniture and many others.

There was no bidding for the modifications, said the complaint. Mabilog had vowed to drop some items in the plan, like solar panels for his office and a P30 million warehouse that would be converted into a parking area.

THE NEW Iloilo City Hall under construction. It was described as the Philippines' most expensive if it was completed because of its P436-million price tag. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

State of calamity in village where 200 poisoned

CALUMPIT, Bulacan—Mayor Jomar de Jesus on Tuesday declared a state of calamity in the village of Meyzalin after more than 200 people experienced symptoms of food poisoning, particularly diarrhea, in the past three days.

Dr. Ely Gomez, Bulacan health officer, said Dr. Jesus issued the declaration on the village councils could access financial and medical assistance as the number of victims increased.

She said initial reports blamed the food served at a birthday party of a 2-year-old boy in the village on Saturday as cause of the apparent food poisoning. Gomez, most of them children, experienced diarrhea, dizziness, vomiting and stomachaches.

But Gomez said authorities could not say what really caused the food poisoning pending results of laboratory tests of the food, juice and water served during the party and distributed to neighbors. Samples were submitted for testing to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

The Calumpit health office, she said, had asked residents of Meyzalin to boil their drinking water or used bottled water in the meantime.

She said 130 of the 209 victims were taken to the Calumpit District Hospital and Sta. Cruz Hospital here and to the Bulacan Medical Center in Malolos City from many taken to hospitals in search of treatment.

Gomez said reports indicated that most victims would be discharged soon.

On Tuesday, health officials launched an emergency medical mission in the village to check on the condition of residents, especially children. The Department of Health office in Central Luzon said bottles of intravenous (IV) fluid and boxes of antibiotics for the mission.

Gomez appealed to residents not to blame the family that hosted the birthday party, saying they did not intend to harm their neighbors. Gerry A. Baldemor, Inquirer Central Luzon

77 illegal Taal fish cages removed; 1,223 more to go

By Marieh Grilo Lesaca
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TALISAY, Batangas—Authorities on Tuesday started dismantling 77 out of the 1,300 illegal fish cages in the Taal Lake off the towns of Talisay, Laurel, Agoncillo and San Nicolas.

Lieutenant Eadoc, superintendent of the Provincial Anti-Illegal Activities and Firearms Control Unit, said the 77 cages in Taal and the total number was translated to less than 1,000 cages after several operators dismantled their structures themselves.

As of 2:30 p.m., the dismantled cages numbered 38 in Talisay, 11 in Laurel, eight in San Nicolas and 20 in Agoncillo. These were made of bamboo or steel.

Lito Alvarez, 39, of Barangay Quiling, Talisay, said he used to operate 30 cages but decided to harvest his fish and dismantle the structures ahead of the task force team.

He left pity for the other operators. "They borrowed from 5-6 financiers (moneylenders) and invested only to see their fish cages being dismantled," he said.

Alvarez said it would have been all right to dismantle the steel fish cages but the team should not have taken the drums that serve as floaters.

He said the capital per steel fish cage with drums was from P50,000 to P60,000, while those made of bamboo ranged from P12,500 to P14,000.

Retired Col. Oscar de Castro, task force ground commander, said his men would return the drums and warn if the operators would sign receipts. But not one would sign because their fish cages are illegal and they would face charges, he said.

Illegal fish cage operators would be charged with violating Republic Act No. 8550 or a law against fishing violations, pursuant to Philippine courts, said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Batangas) Integrated Protected Area Agency (IPA) in charge of enforcing aquatic fisheries.

Foreign investors could be deported if it was proven that they have dummies operating the fish cages, Eadoc said.

Oliver Morales, 39, of Barangay Quiling said a Taft cage caretaker, said he had claimed that one of his three cages before the task force arrived.

"I will stop selling tilapia as there are no buyers yet in the market," he said.

He said before the fishkill, he used to deliver 50 kilos of tilapia per day to hotels and restaurants but now he could only deliver four, 15 to 20 a day which he sells at P90 per kg.

A father of two, Morales shares half of his earnings with a financier.

MEMBERS of the Task Force TaalLake dismantle illegal fish cages in Talisay town in Batangas. Above: 1,300 illegal fish cages are expected to be removed from the lake.

Romblon eyes phone firm taxes to raise revenues

By Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

ROMBLON, Romblon—The Romblon provincial board has passed a resolution that ought to tax telecommunications companies in a bid to raise the province's revenues.

The provincial government is in Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 95-2011-182 dated May 23, asked Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecommunications and Sun Cellular to submit a copy of their annual gross sales to the local government and demanded "the payment of local tax applicable under the Local Government Code."

The provincial government cited as basis a provision in the Local Government Code which stated that "the provinces may impose a tax on business enjoying a franchise, at a rate not exceeding 50 percent of 1 percent of the gross annual receipts."

Board Member Felix Magsaysay, one of the authors of the resolution, said local franchise taxes has become applicable to the telephone companies in 2008, citing as precedent the Supreme Court ruling that licensed the city government of Davao when it imposed local taxes on Smart Communications Inc.

"Romblon (that we are in favor to make the telco design (their gross sales), that's why we are asking them to give us a copy (of the gross sales generated from the province)," he said in a phone interview on Monday.

Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecommunications have operations in Romblon, while Sun Cellular only operates in the towns of San Agustin, Odiongan and Romblon, said Magsaysay.

The provincial government estimated that each of the telco firms from P6 million to P10 million annually from their local operations.

"In that would mean around P60,000,000 annually for the provincial government. It's not that much, but it would greatly help raise our local revenues," said Hagan.

He said taxing telcos would be an additional source of income since Romblon, a third class province, is legally dependent on its share from the internal revenue allotment.

He said the average annual income of a third class province like Romblon is around P17 million, "but sources even stay below that."

FREEDOM DAY
Expats—folding a giant Independence Day proceeding they were revolutionary heroes around the Gothic Aguinaldo statue at the museum built by his Regnio heirs.

DENR reviews permit given to Boracay resort

KALO CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is reviewing an agreement it entered into with a controversial high-end resort operating on a proposed reclaimed area in Boracay, the country's top tourist destination.

Regional Director Arlene Baldado said in an interview on Monday that the agency's regional forestry division was recognizing the Boracay Mina Corp. for cultivation of the Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism Purposes (FLAgT).

A FLAgT, under DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-39, allows the temporary use, occupation and development of any forest land for non-timber purposes for a period of 25 years and renewable for the same period.

It covers forest land to be used for lodging, camp sites, recreation facilities, food sites and other tourism-related purposes.

"We are reviewing the FLAgT if it is not inimical with the zoning plans if the lot of governmental areas," Baldado said. The results of the investigation would be released next week, he said.

On Friday, the local government of Malay town, which has jurisdiction over Boracay, ordered the closure of Boracay West Cove by lack of business, building and occupancy permits.

In an earlier interview, Governor Aquino, the resort owner, questioned the closure order, saying it violated the FLAgT. The DENR under then Secretary Jose Atienza issued the agreement in 2009 despite calls from business groups to stop the resort's operations for building structures on such formations and other violations.

Atienza said those were clear provisions in the FLAgT, including the location and type of structures to be built.

The resort became controversial amid rumors that it was partly owned by former Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, husband of Atienza's daughter Iris. Mikey Arroyo, however, denied the allegation.

Atienza had made it a point to be seen with Pangilinan during the latter's victory parties and reception when he was still governor of Manila. —Reuter D'Bargos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Army rejects use of bombs to ease flood in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—The military here has rejected calls for the use of explosives in blasting aquatic plants that have blocked rivers, creeks and other basins in Maguindanao, causing floods in 10 of the city's 37 villages.

The flooding worsened as rains continued, submerging at least 15 houses in the province.

The military said the deployment of unarmed soldiers to help remove bags of water hyacinths clogging waterways and believed to be the cause of the flooding.

The soldiers are armed with diamond-tipped shovels, said Lt. Col. Precioso Arde, 6th Infantry Division (ID) spokesperson.

Mayor Japal Guiani has ordered the forced evacuation of several families in Barangay Poblacion Mother who refused to leave their homes and are building structures on the river.

Arde said using explosives to remove the hyacinths could bring more harm than good. "If we blast off the water lilies, the soil and silt attached to the roots of these plants will sink to the river bed and worsen siltation (the deposition of sediments)," said Arde.

The ideal thing to do, he said, was cut off the water hyacinths "thrash by chunk and let them flow downstream into the Rio Grande."

VEHICLES run a narrow portion of a flooded street in Barangay North Cotabato, one of several towns hit by flooding due to heavy rains and, in the case of some Maguindanao areas, acts of water hyacinths blocking waterways.

Maj. Gen. Fru Aoki, chief of the unit's 3D, has directed all battalion commanders and other support units to use their tractors and other available assets, even combat vehicles, for relief operations.

A state of calamity has been declared in this city and Maguindanao due to the flooding.

On Tuesday, Cotabato Archbishop Jose Colin Bagaoisan appealed to Catholic schools to raise funds for flood victims. "We appeal to your generosity," the bishop said over Church-run radio station dxMS.

Flood levels rose to at least 6 feet in seven villages in the city as relief operations continued for hundreds of evacuees now in school buildings, gymnasiums and flood tents.

Rashid Ibrahim, Maguindanao Governor, ordered the chief, said he also has sought the help of the regional office of the Department of Public Works and Highways for equipment to remove water hyacinths from waterways.

Public works officials said the clearing operations could last a month since the volume of hyacinths continues to increase with the rains.

"We are bracing for a bigger problem because we are very close to water hyacinths upstream and moving toward Cotabato City," said Fe Elaine Hurtado of the Office of Mayor Iluminado Alfonso Bernardino, Inquirer Mindanao.

Funds from sand quarry in Pampanga not audited

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Pampanga government has demanded records that it says not getting from said villages their shares of revenue from the fee collected for the extraction of Mt. Pinatubo's sand.

Aniceto Pangilinan Jr., provincial administrator, on Monday released to the Inquirer copies of records of shares given by the provincial treasurer to towns and villages from July 2010 to April 2011. These totaled P60,206,750.

In the same list of P350 the province, towns and villages are entitled to 50, 30 and 40 percent, respectively, as mandated by the Local Government Code (Republic Act No. 7160). That means P45 for the province, P40 for towns and P60 for villages.

However, at least P2,502 million worth of checks represent the quarry shares of the towns of Macabebe, San Simon and Bacolor and 39 villages of Candaba, Minalin, Bacolor, Apalit, San Simon, Macabebe, Magalang, Lubao, Sto. Rosa, Porac and Mabalacat towns remained unclaimed as of June 13.

Several village officials and civic leaders told Inquirer that they had not been informed about the quarry shares, the distribution of these or how much these are. They declined to be named, pursuing provincial and local leaders to be sensitive to questions about quarry shares.

The checks, which represent shares mostly for the month of April this year, are in the names of barangay and village treasurers.

"So far as the quarry shares are concerned, we don't have debts to towns and barangays," Pangilinan said.

Questions on the shares arose after the provincial government released to the treasurer copies of P22.6 million from July 2010 to May 2011 under Gov. Lilia Pineda.

Half of the amount came from the P350 used not while the rest came from the P200 collected before this, which the capitol is required to hold and is kept funding pending the resolution of a case that former Gov. Eddie Panlilio filed to stop the implementation of Ordinance No. 176.

The Pampanga Mayors' League supported the ordinance to increase their quarry shares from P130 to P200.

While records on quarry shares of the province are open to media scrutiny, those in towns and villages are hardly reviewed on audited by auditors (POA), reporters said.

Pangilinan said the shares are added to the general fund, which is subject to audit by the Commission on Audit.

The P22.6 million collection under Pineda was higher by about P10 million from the P215.465 million thrown for the same period when Panlilio began installing interception structures in the quarry industry. —Rosette Orejas, Inquirer General Luzon

New SBMA chair starts goodwill meetings with LGUs, townsfolk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The incoming chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has started meeting officials of communities around the free port in an effort to forge cooperation with local government units in Zambales and Bataan to push this economic zone's growth.

Roberto Garcia, who was appointed by President Aquino on April 7 as SBMA chair to replace Feliciano Salonga, said he had met with local officials to explain why he would work together to further grow the free port.

Garcia said there were no specific policy initiatives or projects that were discussed.

He said he met with Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia, Bataan Rep. Hermilio Tomas, Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon Jr., Zambales Rep. Mitzigo Majaducon, Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and several mayors in the two provinces.

On Friday, President Aquino administered the oaths of office of Garcia and SBMA director Benjamin Antonio M. Philip Cosmela, Filemon Bradford Rodriguez, Alfonso Gapuz, Gerald Santos, Wilfredo Pineda, Francis Garcia, Bienvenido Bautista and Mari Pilar Chan Dimson.

Garcia was supposed to assume his post as SBMA chair on June 1, but the SBMA postponed the turnover ceremony after Salonga left it.

Asked about the status of appointment of Rafael Reyes as employee SBMA Administrator designated in 2010, Garcia said "there is no news" about that yet.

Garcia earlier said Reyes, who was appointed by the President also on April 7, had quit before he could assume the post of administrator. Aurora, however, denied this, saying his appointment entitled to hold some tasks in the private sector before he could assume his government post.

Reyes has yet to issue any statement or grant interviews to clarify the status of his appointment and to prescribe some to rest

In an earlier statement, the President's deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte said Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima was tasked by Malacañang with sorting out the confusion regarding Reyes' appointment.

Garcia said Salonga and Antonio had been cooperating with him "to please (so the SBMA will) push through."

He said location was a possible starting point of cooperation between the authority and Zambales. "There are areas in this province, like the Aeta communities and Subic cove, which are ripe for help to develop to promote tourism in Zambales," he said.

Garcia said he told Bataan and Zambales officials that the 15-member SBMA board still lacked representatives from Subic town, Olongapo and Mariveles City. —Rosette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Exhibit shows award-winning photos of eruption

ONE PHOTOGRAPH could have been captioned: NO ESCAPE.

Taken 20 years ago today, the photo shows a monster of black clouds thundering through the plains, threatening to incinerate two vehicles used by news photographers in covering the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo volcano after centuries of slumber.

The scene was captured on camera by then Inquirer photographer Ramon "Boy" Cabrido who, along with his media colleagues, arrived that day.

The dramatic shot was among the award-winning photographs of Pinatubo's fury that are on exhibit at the Olongapo City Convention Center starting today.

Man vs nature

The weeklong exhibit was put up by a group of media people where lives were endangered while covering one of the most destructive volcanic eruptions of the last century. The exhibit's formal day was last night, showcased millions of pesos worth of property and left thousands homeless.

According to Cabrido, the president of the Mt. Pinatubo Media Survivors group and a former Inquirer photography consultant, the exhibit was intended to remind people of an unforgettable "man against nature" episode in our country's history that tested man's fortitude.

The pioneers include those taken by Albert Garcia, who became the first Filipino to win the prestigious World Press Photo grand prize with his shot of the Pinatubo blast.

Also documented are images of present-day communities which have recovered from the devastation of June 15, 1991. These photos show how the survivors were able to rebuild their lives.

Philippine Red Cross chair and former Sen. Richard Gordon will be a guest at today's opening. Gordon was mayor of Olongapo City when the volcano erupted. He led the evacuation of hundreds of Aeta families.

Other guests are Olongapo Mayor James "Bong" Gordon Jr. and city first lady Rosie Gordon will lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Invited are officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and prominent media personalities.

A sightseer

Mike Pareng, the event coordinator, said the exhibit was part of a recordsetting celebration of Olongapo 402th city-hood anniversary. The June 12 Independence Day and national hero Jose Rizal's 150th birth anniversary.

The best in the Filipino

Pareng said the city government decided to hold a joint extended celebration to give city residents and other Filipinos enough reasons to reflect on the significance of the historic events that have occurred in the country in June.

"Mt. Pinatubo's eruption was a nightmare, yet it brought out the best in the Filipino as shown by the brave and impressive recovery of heavily damaged areas, like Olongapo," Mayor Gordon said.

DOJ drops murder raps against ex-Palawan governor, 5 others

From page A1

turn in last the DOJ. We were shocked to find that they had lowered for the accused mastermind," she added.

Holding back tears, the mother said she would seek other legal avenues not just for her husband but also for the many others journalists who suffered the same fate.

In a complaint-affidavit, Evelyn Ortega had accused Reyes of masterminding the Jun. 24 murder of her husband.

Media watchdogs had hoped that the case would be resolved. But that hope was destroyed when the special panel of prosecutors formed by the DOJ ruled that Reyes and company would not be indicted in the killing of Ortega, a vocal critic of Reyes and other local officials for their alleged misuse of funds generated from the Malampaya natural gas project.

In Manila, activist priest Robert Reyes, a close friend of the victim, said the bereaved family was "very angry and very upset."

Reyes said Ortega's family and friends had been given the impression "that [the prosecutors] will be fair" and "that any witnesses are strong and persuasive."

"Now, the witnesses are the ones charged while the mastermind was cleared. We don't understand that kind of procedure," he said.

De Lima inhibiting

Reyes said Ortega's widow and children had yet to decide on their next legal move pending their meeting with their lawyer Harry Roque.

"Definitely, the family will file a motion for reconsideration although that may only prolong their fight for justice," he said.

With the dismissal of the case against the primary accused, Reyes said the family was now pinning its hopes on Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

But De Lima, who once served as election lawyer of the former Palawan governor, said she would stand by her earlier decision to inhibit from the case.

"If the family files a petition for review in the Office of the Justice Secretary, I will assign an undersecretary to handle it," she said.

In a resolution dated June 8, the DOJ panel led by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Edwin Lapuz said the evidence and testimonies of witnesses presented by the prosecution were "insufficient to establish probable cause against" Reyes, former Municipalities Gov. Jose Carreon, former Palawan provincial administrator Romeo Serenadas, Mayor Mario Reyes of Coron, Palawan, and Reyes' former aides Antonio Bagtalon and Percival Lesias.

But the panel approved the filing of a criminal case against Reyes' former security aide Rodolfo "Bartal" Islud Jr., Armando Suel, Ismael Asoan and Erwin Acanda.

The other panel members are Assistant State Prosecutor Reyes Janice Cacha and Prosecutors Attorney John Benedict Medina.

Confessed gunman

Ortega, 47, was shot at close range in a clothing store in Puerto Princesa. The confessed gunman, Michel Sevastula, was arrested moments later and charged.

In her complaint, Portia Ortega said only Reyes had the motive in order for husband killed. She said the former governor had also blamed her husband for the latter's failed run for Congress.

Ortega had criticized Reyes on his daily radio program for the latter's purported inability to stop the abuses and violations of environmental laws committed by mining companies in Palawan.

He had also assailed mining firms for destructive operations in parts of the province that reportedly caused flash floods and landslides.

In an affidavit, Sevastula said the gun he had used to kill Ortega was given to him by Lesias and Islud. He said the pair paid him P150,000 for the "hit job."

The gun, which was recovered from a trash bin near the crime scene, was later traced to Bartalidon, who admitted owning the gun and selling it to Lesias.

Despite Islud's admission of the participation in the crime, the DOJ panel said "no independent evidence corroborates all such statements."

No comment

In Puerto Princesa, Reyes' wife, Palawan Vice Gov. Cleta Reyes, declined to comment on the matter "until after I have read the entire ruling."

She told reporters that she was taking this course "in deference to the Ortega family, as I have learned how they feel, being a wife."

But employees of the capitol were jubilant, with many of them exchanging high fives.

"I just won P800 from a bet [that Reyes will not be indicted]," an employee said.

Massacre trial to become reality show live on TV

From page A1

four sorties by Senior Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales as a pro bono vice, or a sitting that applies only in a particular case or controversy, and assisted 'in need as president of forum cases.

Marquez said the ruling could also be the "valedictory decision" of Sereno, who is to retire on May 29.

"It is about time to craft a win-win situation that shall not compromise rights in the administration of criminal justice, sacrifice freedom of media rights and interfere in the integrity and solemnity of judicial proceedings," Marquez said, terms labelling quoting a portion of the ruling.

As many as 197 persons have been charged with the massacre of 57 people, including 32 media workers, on Nov. 23, 2009. The victims in the period Ong's victim have yet to be found.)

Eight members of the influential Ampatuan clan and 80 other people have been arrested.

The massacre is believed to be the worst election-related violence in Philippine history and the single-deadliest attack on the media.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, as ally of the Ampatuans, may be summoned to testify at the trial.

P-Noy thanks SC

Marquez said that apart from the MOP petition, the court also took note of the letter of President Aquino to Chief Justice Renato Corona and the petition filed by the National Peace Council seeking live coverage of the trial.

"The court took into consideration advancements in information technology. The court, of course, had to weigh the rights of the accused together with the guarantee of freedom and the right of the public to information. All these rights were weighed, that's why the court has come up with this compromise," Marquez said.

"We thank the Supreme Court for granting our request and those of our other countrymen to allow full and live coverage of this trial," Mr. Aquino said in a news briefing yesterday afternoon.

"Let us laud the Supreme Court. They listened," he added.

Trial hearings are being held twice a week. The high court did not say when the live broadcasts would start.

Marquez said three justices did not participate in yesterday's voting—the Chief Justice (an affected lawyer), Associate Justice Arturo Brion (on sick leave), and former Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura (who retired on Mon. day).

The tribunal had twice voted to ban live coverings of the trial, saying that it could violate an accused's constitutional rights to a fair hearing in the politically charged case.

Only 1 camera

But the Supreme Court only partially granted the MOP petition and laid down specific rules and guidelines for broadcast networks, Marquez said.

He said that instead of allowing all TV stations to set up their own cameras, only one camera would be allowed inside the courtroom "under the court's control."

"The court took into consideration the impossibility of accommodating all parties inside the courtroom, including the victims, families, witnesses and complainants," he said.

According to Marquez, media entities, including foreign broadcast firms, are obliged to seek accreditation from the presiding judge, Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, to get a live feed of the hearing.

"We foresee media establishments applying. After the court's approval, [the media] establishments can air live proceedings of the case," he said.

And while the cameras will be allowed to announce the hearings, the opinions aired during the telecast will still be reviewed by the sub judice rule, Marquez said.

"The court will reserve its right to hold anybody in contempt for violating any of the rules enumerated in the decision," he warned.

Guidelines

Marquez said the accreditation of radio and TV firms could be revoked should they fail to comply with these guidelines set by the high court.

• An audio-visual recording may be made both for documentary purposes and for transmitting by live radio and TV broadcast.

• Media entities must file a letter of application expressing intent to air the proceedings and present a "technological plan" stating that they will follow rules and cover the entire process until the promulgation.

• No media entity may air the proceedings without Judge Reyes' approval.

• Only one camera will be allowed in the courtroom.

• The broadcast on any given day will be continuous except for portions barred by the court.

• There will be no commercial breaks until proceedings are adjourned, except for a period of recess called by the court and when the public is excluded.

• Hearings will be aired without voiceover except for annotation of scenes to explain elements at the time and climax of the proceedings.

• Replays will not be allowed until either final judgment is made, except for brief footage derived from recordings only for news purposes.

Public watching

Lawmakers welcomed the Supreme Court's ruling.

"For the sake of transparency, I don't mind that [the trial] is televised," Zambales Rep. Mitos Magsaysay an Aquino ally, said.

"What are important are the issues and evidence raised and the rebuttal of the defense, plus how the court will decide on the case[," Magsaysay added.

Bag. Nat. Colmenares of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna said the live coverage would spread up the trial because the public would be watching.

"The live coverage of the proceedings is a public concern which the public has the right to be informed and updated on," he said.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino in a text message said: "Now that the [trial] will be televised, the public will be able to discern for [itself]. But what does [MA Dayan] have to do with the massacre?"

Aquino camp has declined comment on the matter even after Malacañang Palace spokesman Ed Ig Inocencio Gregorio Honasan listed for among those to be called to testify.

Honasan has refused to say what Aquino would testify on.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

'My husband died exposing anomalies'

From page A1

"Though the lawsuit was a civilian employee of the Iriga City police, Raquel found the suspect quite odd—and common. That's when she learned that her husband had been shot dead on his way to work less than an hour earlier.

In an interview yesterday, a still inconsolable Raquel recalled having pleaded with Oliva to go slow with his exposés in his daily show on dwEB 990, assuring that he may be exacting grave danger for a job that didn't pay much.

"But he told me that if he stopped making an exposé, nobody else will do the job," she said.

Raquel, 46, said Oliva told her about the threats he had received even before his radio program, "Anything Goes," went on air three months ago.

She begged the government to solve her husband's murder immediately, insisting that the case could would only embolden the perpetrators.

Nine relatives bid husband's names for doing his job, Raquel asked: "What will happen if no one will inform the public about anomalies?"

Oliva was found dead in his radio station on Monday when he was shot twice in the back in front of the Holy Child Learning Center at Sumagay San Jose in Iriga City, according to police. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Malacañang has condemned the latest media killing, the sixth under the Aquino administration, hailing Oliva as a "crusading journalist" and vowing prompt action on the case.

Second victim

Oliva was the second broadcaster of dwEB, a station hosted in Naboa town in Camarines Sur, to be killed in less than a year.

Miguel Belen, 46, died in hospital a month after he was shot seven times by assailants on a motorcycle on July 9, 2010. Like Oliva, Belen was attacked while on his way to report at dwEB.

Police has since tagged Eric Ereguo, 34, as the mastermind behind the killing, and Ereguo, allegedly a member of the New People's Army (NPA), as Belen's executor.

Iriga Mayor, acting assistant municipal of dwEB, recalled that before Oliva was killed, the latter had been receiving tokens in his 30-minute program involving the Alfelor family, a prominent political clan in Iriga.

Florence said the most recent issue discussed by Oliva revolved around an incident during a basketball contest in the city.

He said Oliva had obtained a supposed scoop days from the game, particularly that of a bloodied stalkings between Iriga City Mayor Madelaine Alfelor-Gutierrez and an unidentified person.

Florence said a melee broke out between the competing teams after Gutierrez reportedly ordered the game stopped because her favored team was losing.

PHOTO shows Iriga City broadcaster Romeo Oliva.

'Our No. 1 critic'

Reached for comment yesterday, Gutierrez acknowledged the slain broadcaster as "our No. 1 critic," but she maybe maintained that she never minded Oliva's comments.

The mayor said she often ignored Oliva's attacks, because he "is needed for a station which she said was biased in favor of Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr.

According to Florence, dwEB-FM is owned by Rene Magnus, a relative of Villafuerte.

As to the basketball game mentioned by Oliva on his program, Gutierrez recalled that at one point in the game her son told her that someone in the crowd shouted to insult her.

The clip, she said, apparently captured the moment when she was asking her son what their parents were.

"I extend my sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Sonny Oliva. Even if he is our No. 1 critic, we still sympathize (with his family). He has been a critic since Day One of my first term. He never appreciated my prayers and programs," Gutierrez said.

Power co-op also hit

Florence said Oliva also tackled issues concerning Camarines Sur III Electric Cooperative (Camelco III) where Gutierrez's relative Gangging Alfelor served as board chair.

He said Oliva criticized the supposed issues being marshaled by Camarines Sur III, the Alfelor family's hopes to unseat electric bills amounting to millions of pesos.

Florence said Oliva also discussed alleged anomalies involving barangay chiefs allied with Gutierrez and the Alfelors, as well as schools owned and operated by the mayor's family.

In a statement, Governor Villafuerte also called for the immediate resolution of Oliva's murder.

"We cannot and should not ignore the blatant media killings in Camarines Sur. I appeal to Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, both of whom are from Camarines Sur, to help us solve the media killings. It has been one unresolved crime after another," Villafuerte said.

Oliva is survived by his wife and two children.—*Jerome Augustin*, 20, and Jan. 8, 11.

China rules out force in sea dispute, rebukes US senator

BEIJING—China on Tuesday ruled out the use of force in the issue South China Sea after its neighbors expressed concern about its more assertive maritime claims.

"We will not resort to the use of force or the threat of force," Hong Lei, the foreign ministry spokesperson, told reporters. "We hope relevant countries will do more for peace and stability in the region."

In the same conference, China also criticized US Sen. Jim Webb's call for a tougher US stance and appeal for multilateral negotiations to resolve festering territorial disputes in the South China Sea. (See related story on Page A23.)

Army commentary

Hong said only those countries with territorial claims in the vast resource-rich waters should get involved in such discussions.

Also on Tuesday, China's state military newspaper said Beijing vehemently opposed external powers meddling in territorial disputes over the South China Sea after Vietnam asked for international help to defuse tensions over the potentially resource-rich region.

The warning in the Liberation Army Daily coincided with exercises conducted by Vietnam's military along its central coast, and follows a weekend statement by Hanoi welcoming efforts by the international community, including the United States, to help resolve the disputes.

China and Vietnam have battled accusations at each other for weeks over what each country says is corruption into its territorial waters by the other in a swath of ocean crossed by key shipping lanes and believed to hold large deposits of oil and gas.

Such accusations have flared up between China, Vietnam and the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, which are also involved in longstanding maritime disputes in the South China Sea, but the present heat of tension has not surged this much.

Unrelated countries

The commentary in the Liberation Army Daily reiterated such warnings and added that "unrelated" countries should back off, adding China's military's might to that message.

"This dispute must be resolved peacefully through friendly consultations between the two parties involved," the paper said.

"Therefore, China resolutely opposes any country unrelated to the South China Sea issue meddling in disputes, and it opposes the internationalization of the South China Sea issue," it added.

Tensions between China and the United States intensified last year after the Obama administration became embroiled in the South China Sea dispute, elevating Washington's support for a multilateral solution.

Beijing insists on handling the disputes over the region on a one-on-one basis rather than multilaterally, a strategy sometimes been described as "divide and conquer."

The Liberation Army Daily is under the command of China's ruling Communist Party and its General Military Commission, and although commentaries in the paper do not amount to government policy, they are carefully vetted to reflect the kind of official thinking.

Call to arms!

Senior commentator of the Guangming of South East Asian Studies (Hanoi), Vietnam last year sought to internationalize the South China Sea dispute and succeeded in putting it on the agenda at a regional security forum...much to China's displeasure.

The Liberation Army Daily commentary accused Vietnam of stirring up tensions by conducting the exercises in part of the exclusive economic zone it claims in the sea.

"These actions in antagonistic and provocative conflict will not help solve the South China Sea problems," the paper said.

"The country concerned should stop its unilateral actions to expand and make more complicated the South China Sea dispute, and no longer make unrealistic and irresponsible statements," it added.

Military drill

Vietnam's military newspaper, in turn, accused China at the weekend of creating disputes after Hanoi had criticized its neighbors."

Vietnam's prime minister also made comments on the issue in response of a possible military drill, a move experts said was a signal from the communist authorities that the country it was prepared to defend its interests.

"Vietnam is speaking to two audiences. It's speaking to a domestic audience where it is under pressure to be shown to be taking steps to deal with China. The other is to China," said Carlyle Thayer, a Vietnam expert at the Australian Defense Force Academy.

US to PH: We're with you in all subjects

NO QUESTING THOMAS President Aquino shares light moments with US Ambassador Harry Thomas during Tuesday's launch of the Department of Energy's National Renewable Program at Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. "We are partners," the American ambassador told the President. (MALACAÑANG PHOTO BUREAU)

From page A1

mines our population. We do not want any hostilities to break out," Aquino later told reporters when asked about recent Chinese actions in the disputed waters.

"Perhaps the presence of our treaty partners, the United States of America, ensures that all of us will have freedom of navigation (and) will conform to international law," he said.

"We're happy that they especially when they announced the reminder that we are a strategic partner and that there is a treaty between us," Mr. Aquino said in the afternoon briefing.

Yet no just areas that where over sometimes talks about the Spratlys, South China or West Philippine Sea, as we call it, there is this that they call rather nine-to international line. The international line that is applicable is called the 'Nine-Dash' line.

Under the Unclos, or the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a country's exclusive economic zone extends 370 kilometers (200 nautical miles) from its continental shelf.

Recto Bank

Mr. Aquino said there should be no dispute over the Recto Bank, pointing out it is just 246 kilometers (150 nautical miles) away from Palawan, while the nearest disputed China is to the bank is 1,046 kilometers (574 nautical miles). Beijing calls the area Reed Bank and claims it as part of its territory.

"We're talking seventy-six is obviously greater than 200. Why should there be a dispute?" the President said.

Materializing spokesperson in recent days voiced optimism that the United States would MEB its commitments under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines. The treaty provides for automatic retaliation in the event of an attack on each other's territory.

"We are thankful. We appreciate whatever declaration of support that the US and our neighboring countries will openly state," Defense Undersecretary Fernando Reine said.

"We're hopeful is there's no, no further hostilities. The last thing we would want here is to come up with hostile action from any party."

Destined to grow

The partnership between the Philippines and the United States, Thomas said in his remarks, "is destined to grow stronger over the years" as the two countries attempt to become independent energy developers.

"I hope that we can become energy independent and harness our own resources to fuel our industries, our homes and our dreams," Thomas said. "I know that with that goal set, our partnership is destined to grow stronger over the years."

The Recto Bank and the Spratly Islands are reputed to be oil-rich territories and are now the subject of exploration by the Philippines and other claimant states.

The Philippines and Vietnam, in particular, have expressed alarm at what they say are increasingly aggressive actions by China in the disputed waters.

The Philippines has accused China of undermining peace and stability in the region by sending naval vessels to intimidate Filipino fishermen and the crew of its oil exploration ship.

Manila has also accused Beijing of putting up posts and a buoy in Philippine-claimed areas of the Spratlys, an archipelago of more than 100 islands and reefs in the South China Sea.

China has denied taking any aggressive action, insisting it remains committed to resolving the territorial dispute peacefully.

Exploration activity

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said Thomas' remarks were meant to show US support for the Philippines in all areas, including the energy sector.

"He just wanted to express the fact that the US government is supportive of the Philippines. I guess the ambassador just wanted to express his support and total faith and support for the Philippines. So even mentioned he's supporting us in everything," said the energy secretary.

Almendras also stressed that the Philippines had not started any petroleum service contract within the disputed Spratlys area.

"What we do is to observe the movement from China that we shouldn't be developing oil fields in the Spratly Islands! I said unobserved. But very well because there is no exploration activity in the Spratly Islands because there was a prior agreement that there should be no movement there," he said.

Contract with UK firm

Almendras also explained that the contract Service Contract 72 awarded to the UK-based firm Forum Energy Plc covered only parts of Recto Bank, which were about 40 kilometers from the shore of Palawan.

"It's already a service contract. We have finished the seismic work and analysis is already ongoing. That area is not within the Spratlys Island. We have not done anything in the Spratlys," Almendras said.

The Recto Bank is home to prospective oil and gas areas, notably the Philippines' prospect, which is reported to contain as many as 3.4 billion barrels of gas and potentially 440 million barrels of oil.

The area is believed to contain a much bigger deposit of oil and gas than the adjoining Malampaya gas field, the country's only and largest gas production field to date. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazolbigan and AFP*

House backs rules-based approach to West Philippine Sea

By Cynthia D. Balana

A RESOLUTION has been introduced in the House of Representatives condemning the Department of Foreign Affairs' (DFA) call for a rules-based regime in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) following repeated Chinese intrusions since in February.

House Resolution No. 1401, principally authored by Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, also called for more security, openness respect and adherence to international law to preserve peace and resolve conflicts.

Casiño said international law had given equal voice to nations regardless of politics, economic or military status. As such, he said the Philippines expected nothing less from its international partners.

"The rule of law is the bedrock of peace and stability in modern societies. The rise of a rules-based international system has been the great equalizer in global affairs," Casiño said in his explanatory remarks.

Bullying not allowed

He said the Philippines, as semi-dependent, penal, peace-loving, sovereign nation "must not allow any other nation to bully and trample on the rights and dignity of the other nations in the region."

"Only a rules-based system of rules provide an effective tool for peaceful and fair resolution," he stressed.

Casiño noted that the Philippines had faced serious challenges in the West Philippine Sea since the Philippines signed the Proposition (Bilateral) Treaty in 1995.

He said the country's sovereignty of the Kalayaan Island Group based on legislative maritime jurisdictions had been contended by certain nations.

US leads Asean war games in Sulu Sea, waters east of Palawan

From page A1

Dubbed the Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training Command, the annual maritime exercise initiated by the United States covers training against terrorism, trauma-based scenes "and other maritime threats."

A Philippine Navy spokesperson said the naval exercises had been arranged before fresh security tensions between the Philippines and China over the disputed Spratly islands.

Asset reinforcement

The exercise coincided with a visit by Philippine Navy chief Vice Adm. Alexander Pama at the Naval Forces West in Palawan, his first since assuming office in January. It came as the military was reinforcing its naval and air assets in the West Philippine Sea.

The Navy spokesperson, Lt. Col. Omar Ezzeig, said Pama toured Naval Station Apolinario Jalandoon, headquarters of the Naval Forces West, as well as the Oyster Bay facilities known as Naval Station Carlito Caturan in Ulugan Point, Macarascas, Puerto Princesa City.

Pama also paid a courtesy call on the Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Command commander, Lt. Gen. Jaime Bautista, who is based in Puerto Princesa.

The BRP Emilio Del Pilar, acquired from the US Coast Guard and due to arrive in August, will be one vessel at Naval Station Carlito Caturan, 246 kilometers (240 nautical miles) from Recto Bank (Reed Bank) facing the West Philippine Sea.

Capt. Sebastian Pan, Philippine exercise director, said three Philippine Navy ships would participate in this year's Sea-net exercise. The 1366 Salipawid, a rescue and salvage ship, was designated as "commander ship" for the exercise.

LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE Vietnamese sailors fire a 12.7 mm machine gun on Phan Vinh Island in the Spratly archipelago in this picture taken by Vietnam News Agency and released on Tuesday. (AFP)

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Pursue diplomacy over troubled waters

By Laura L. Baja Jr.

Editor's Note: The writer is a former senior foreign undersecretary and ambassador to Brunei, who served on the United Nations Ad hoc Committee in drafting and negotiating the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.)

THE SOUTH China Sea has again resurfaced as an area of concern to the region and of attention to the international community.

Once again the Philippines is poised to exercise its leadership to save existence and devise a diplomatic strategy to promote peace and cooperation over these troubled waters.

Foreign Secretary Albert F. del Rosario advocates a rules-based South China Sea. It is an ideal proposal which will succeed against powerful opposition.

First, who will enforce the rules and what sanctions will it be for violators of the rules.

Second, China considers the South China Sea as a "Chinese lake." Its boundaries extend so far as the reported and inquiring jurisdiction are only of the Philippines, but also of Malaysia.

Since China claims the whole sea and islands of the South China Sea, it has been reluctant to enter a rules-based regime such as code of conduct over the sea.

Doughnut principle

The "segregation of disputed islands" between Japan and the undisputed of the waters of the South China Sea" for possible acceptance and peaceful exploration and exploitation of resources had been proposed.

Professor Hasjim Djalal of Indonesia had advocated this so-called "doughnut principle" where problems of area control and high seas and undisputed areas inside the "doughnut" are proposed as areas for possible exploration and exploitation.

China has rejected the principle. I hope she is not receptive to the concept.

There is rules-based international system is the ideal order of things in a perfect world. Our world is very much an imperfect one where geopolitics and hard-knuckled politics are practiced.

Until the Philippines should push Del Rosario's advocacy which will test the mettle of Philippine diplomacy.

Immediate need

Suggestions for a situation of cooperation on the South China Sea other than potential clash can be the most immediate need.

The South China Sea has become a more complex and complicated scene since the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties on the South China Sea (DOC).

A specific sequence in the South China Sea separate from the ad hoc Asean Association of Southeast Asian Ministers meeting and dialogue like 3 meetings each devoted solely to South China Sea issues should now be pursued.

When we drafted and negotiated the DOC, we had regular contacts with China's Assistant Minister Wang Yi and former Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Fu Ying. Malaysia's Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Kadir, Thailand's Tarn Orasa and Le Cong and Rosario's Lin Jo-Luna.

These senior officials, including myself, kept the issue alive and at the same time kept sets and movements from getting out of hand.

Formal structure

The bond of trust and confidence played a crucial role in the drawing up of the DOC. It is now time to elevate the discussion of the South China Sea to a more formal structure.

The DOC has served its purpose. The region has changed and positions of parties concerned have shifted. Other countries outside the region have suddenly become vocal on South China Sea issues.

Instead of geographical segregation, let us think of issue segregation and concentrate on issues where there is reasonable chance of cooperation such as exploration and exploitation of natural resources in the South China Sea.

Years of multiple deposits under the South China Sea are spoken to claimant states and be examined if not explored and explored.

The working Asean-China group composed with drafting guidelines for the implementation of the DOC should be able to consider the benefits of multiplier efforts which could achieve hard issues on the South China Sea.

PH leadership

We led the drafting and the negotiations of the DOC. The Philippines should continue the leadership.

We have no other choice. Everybody knows we are in deficit to produce and generate our defense in the months without money.

The first priority for the Philippines to maintain this leadership is to speak with one voice and avoid a cacophony of confused and unbalanced pronouncements from various sectors of government.

Let us not relinquish our struggles and what we intend to do. Let us try to keep our mouth clear when not on the negotiating table.

Asean unity

Asean should also unify and speak as one. The South China Sea is an Asean-China issue so we should not fall into the trap of China's offer to each one of the claimant states for a bilateral dialogue.

Both of the claimants have their own capacities but we should be able to preserve a united front as we did 10 years ago. This will diminish the chance of China could bully claimant states, violate Sec. Hassan Wabentao's warnings correctly observed.

Asean must be able to read these clearly and accurately China's intentions in the area and understand its history, culture and current outcomes.

More important Asean maybe able to persuade China to unilateral and economic framework for cooperation in the South China Sea which will hold her on the magic triangle instead of the bilateral.

Without any such initiatives, the South China Sea issue will drift and allow endangered Chinese activities in the area.

Track II diplomacy

The so-called Track II diplomacy is a means to resolve the South China Sea, which was enunciated by former Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, should be supported.

Two challenges have to be addressed.

First, who will be involved in the dialogue?

Second, how will the recommendations of the Track II diplomacy be translated into government policy? Governments have a responsible record on this aspect and arbitrary suggestions and others have lost in translation.

There are troubles over the waters of the South China Sea. There are also opportunities for radical, agile and aggressive diplomacy to resolve the issues in the area.

The Philippines should seize these opportunities.

VIETNAMESE FORTRESS Vietnam News Agency on Tuesday released this photo of Phan Vinh Island in the Spratly archipelago. Vietnam put on a show of military strength in the waters South China Sea on Monday, risking the ire of Beijing in the face of a deepening maritime dispute to assert sovereignty over

US senator urges negotiations on South China Sea dispute

WASHINGTON—The United States needs to condemn China's use of force and push for multilateral negotiations to resolve territorial disputes in the South China Sea that have caused tensions in the region, a prominent US senator said on Monday.

Sen. Jim Webb, a Democrat who chairs the Senate subcommittee overseeing American policy toward East Asia, said Vietnam and other countries in the region supported the US "we are going to back up those words with substantive action."

"That does not mean military confrontation, per se, but we have to make a clear signal," Webb told a Washington conference organized by the Council on Foreign Relations.

Vietnam on Monday fired live artillery rounds off its coastal waters around drill-ranged after alleging that Chinese boats disrupted oil and gas exploration. A similar dispute flared last week between China and the Philippines.

The United States asked China last year by asserting that Washington had a national security interest in the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea, remarks that angered Beijing. Washington has no territorial claims in the area but has competing claims with several nations and overseas and accepts outside interference, Beijing maintains, that the disputes should be handled bilaterally.

Webb said Sec. Hillary Clinton, the visiting Philippine on the administration, introduced on Monday a forum resolution condemning China's actions.

US intervention

The resolution supports continued opposition by US forces to defend freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and urges the United States to facilitate a multilateral process to settle the territorial disputes.

US diplomatic intervention late year was welcomed by countries in the region, most notably Vietnam, which has a historic rivalry with China, against which it fought a bloody border war in 1979.

The latest spat between the communist-led countries has prompted new appeals in Vietnam, which said Chinese boats cut a cable attached to a vessel conducting a seismic survey off its coast on May 26 and has direct operations of another vessel on June 9.

For its part, China accused Vietnam of illegally running its waters and putting fishermen's lives at risk. It has also commenced joint Vietnamese naval drills.

Webb described China's actions to a clear interference to "progress made by Vietnam."

US state department spokesperson Mark Toner on Friday said that the recent incidents in the South China Sea had raised concerns about maritime security.

Toner urged a collaborative diplomatic process to settle the territorial disputes, saying that shoot-of force only served to raise tensions further. AP

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DID YOU KNOW

IN THE FIRST four months of the year, there were 605 road accidents on the stretch of Commonwealth Avenue from Philcoa to Batasan, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.
Rafael Gonzales, Inquirer Research

Ex-Malabon mayor cleared of raps

DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH
The driver of an FMF taxi cab looks at his vehicle which is dwarfed by a 14-wheeler at the corner of Rizal Road and 10th Avenue in Manila before dawn on Tuesday. Despite the mismatch, no one was reported hurt in the collision. RAMON ESTELLER

Court finds no proof of fraud in ₱122-M project

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has acquitted former Malabon Mayor Amado Vincencio and six other city officials of graft charges stemming from the construction of the P122-million municipal hall in 1999.

Cleared along with Vincencio were Maria Lizia Encarnacion, Flo Ondoza, Virdoc Cruz, Lucas Bocaja, Ernesto Pabustan and Pura Ja Cruz, then members of the city's Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee.

They were accused of favoring the joint venture or consortium partnership of Imagtan Development Corp. and Principal Management Group Inc. by awarding them the P122-million contract to build the Malabon municipal hall. (Malabon became a city in 2001).

Based on court records, the prosecution had argued that the joint venture did not have the required special license issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board. It also noted that the contract did not have the approval of the Office of the President.

But in a ruling penned by Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval, the sandiganbayan court's Second Division said the evidence presented failed to show that the contract had caused a P122-million injury to the government.

It added that the sandiganbayan was not meant to stop public officials from defrauding the government and the people.

"The danger which the law seeks to address is not antecedent to the [contract] itself," it said.

According to the court, the project was on a "turn-key" basis where the contractor would fund the project first and then collect payment after its completion.

"If the accused wanted to defraud the government, they would not have sought means and conditions which will be most advantageous to the government," it noted.

The court also said that the prosecution's witness had testified that the Philippine National Bank, from which the Malabon government had obtained a loan, did not disburse a single centavo to the contractor.

It also noted that the prosecution had shifted its theory and presented evidence to show that payment was made for opening conventions and concessionary stamps in an attempt to show that the government had been put in a disadvantage.

"However, for this Court to allow such is in violation of the constitutionally-enshrined right of the accused to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him," it said.

The court added that for an accused to be sufficiently informed of the accusations, the acts that were the subject of the complaint and the qualifying and aggravating circumstances must be stated in ordinary and concise language. These must also be included in the information to charge them, it said.

Woman accuses taxi driver, cohort of kidnapping her 2-week-old baby in Manila

ARTIST sketch of woman cohort of cab driver who took baby.

By Jeannette I. Andrade

ACCOMPANIED by concerned bystanders, a woman went to the police yesterday morning to report the loss of her two-week-old daughter in a taxi driver who drove her around Manila for eight hours.

The police, however, noted several loopholes in her story although for now, they were giving her the benefit of the doubt.

Hours before she reported the alleged kidnapping, Maricel Quijano, a 24-year-old resident of Caloocan City, was spotted crying mommy and walking aimlessly at Rizal Park, attracting the attention of several people who took pity on her.

At the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 3 in Sta. Cruz, she told the police that she had lost her baby and valuables to a taxi driver who was aided by a woman.

According to her, her sacked parted at around 2 p.m. on Monday outside the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMMC) in Sta. Cruz.

She had taken her daughter to the hospital for a checkup when her mother-in-law called her up and asked her to come home.

Quijano said she immediately got into the front passenger seat of a taxi cab in front of JRMMC and told the driver, who was wearing a surgical mask, to take her to Mismanaya.

She added that instead of driving to Mismanaya, the driver took her to the Sta. Cruz area and when she asked him where they were going, he grabbed her bag.

Quijano said that before she could protest, a woman approached in the back seat and took her baby from her.

"I do not know if the woman already there when I got into the taxi. But she snatched my baby and scratched at my arms when I refused to let go," **RONNIE ANG**

Makati cops tagged in boy's death say they're innocent

By Mike L. Morales

A MAKATI police officer accused of shooting and killing a teenage boy last month has denied the charges against him and five of his colleagues.

In his counter-affidavit, Chief Insp. Angelo Greenland, Makati Police Precinct 5 commander, described the testimony of a witness as "highly questionable."

According to Cpl. Wilfredo, Insp. Greenland holding a gun of his which he aimed the victim slumped on the ground.

Greenland said two of his men—PO1 Nicolas Apostol Jr. and PO1 Robert Fallon—are accused of the murder of 18-year-old Christian Serrano who was shot while he was rummaging for metal scraps at an abandoned building on Rockhill Street in Makati City on May 8.

A police report said the three police men were on patrol when they spotted the suspected other teenagers. Greenland fled. Two running identities on whom he hit the boy in the back, killing him.

It was "highly questionable" to allege that it was Insp. Greenland who shot [Christian] only because [I] was allegedly carrying a firearm after the alleged gunfire was heard," Greenland said in his counter-affidavit which he submitted on Monday to the Makati City Prosecutor's Office.

He also pointed out that "if it was me accused he a police officer to carry a service firearm," explaining he and two of his subordinates were inspecting the abandoned building as they were on their way to the Makati City Police Headquarters staff conference.

Greenland also belied claim that he conspired with the two policemen to kill Serrano.

He cited the testimonies of a witness who said he [he] heard a gunshot and then he saw the police officer holding a gun with its barrel pointed upward.

Since the witness did not see that he saw Greenland pull the trigger of the firearm, the policeman said it was "incidental" to conclude that [I] inflicted the wound [on] the victim."

He added that the autopsy report also did not indicate what kind of bullet had killed the victim.

In separate affidavits, Apostol and Fallon also denied the charges against them as both said they were outside the building when the shooting occurred.

Apostol said he was inside the mobile patrol car while Fallon claimed that when he went inside the building, he saw Serrano lying motionless on the ground.

He added that the autopsy report also did not indicate what kind of bullet had killed the victim.

Woman spots 'twin' of vehicle's license plate, calls cops

By Nancy C. Carvajal

HOUSTON in triplet.

A woman called the police on Monday after she spotted a taxi cab's plate number was the same as the vehicle she owned.

Supt. Audie Madrideo, Quezon City Police District (QCPD) District 5 commander, said the driver of the taxi cab was picked up by a police team.

The motorist is now being investigated by the QCPD in connection with the Land Transportation Office, he added.

Madrideo said the car was in possession of a land transfer to Jaime Quezon City on around 5:00 p.m. on Monday when she spotted a taxi cab with the same license plate parked beside the sidewalk.

Dispatcher immediately reported the matter to the police who sent a team to the area to assess the driver and impound his cab.

Madrideo said the owner of the taxi cab was told investigators that he bought the vehicle from its owner who lives in Antipolo City. He added that they had asked the LTO to check he vehicle's papers.

Dispatcher, meanwhile, told the police that this was the second time that she had spotted a taxi cab with the same license plate as her vehicle.

She said that when it happened the first time, she just confronted the driver and operator of the cab who turned over the license plates to her.

"But she did not report the incident as she thought it was just an honest mistake," Madrideo said.

A POLICEMAN guards three taxi cabs with identical plate numbers. The "triplets" were seized by members of the Quezon City Police District's carnapping and car theft unit during an operation.

Police arrest 5 car theft suspects in QC

By Jayson T. Garcia

IT'S A FEATHER in the cap for members of the Quezon City Police District Anti-Carnapping Unit (QCPD-Dacu) who arrested five suspected car thieves and recovered two stolen luxury vehicles in Barangay Obrero (BOR) over the weekend.

QCPD director Chief Supt. George Regis presented to the media five Mitsubishi Montero SUVs and the five suspects yesterday. The cars were stolen from last week.

On Friday afternoon, a blue SUV was taken at gunpoint from Dionisio and Lourdes Thereisa on Magdalenas Street in UP Village. It was retrieved in front Isla by policemen in Poblenou Village, Barangay Obrero. Moments after it was spotted being driven by residents Joey Villanueva and Jonathan Rodriguez.

The two pointed to a Francis Reyneso who, they said, had instructed them to drive the car.

Reyneso, who was nabbed in a restaurant on Tomas Morato Street, told police that they had just delivered a red Mitsubishi Montero, stolen from Cecilia Mendoza-Manuzon in front of her house in Barangay White Plains, to Alexander Emmanuel Aquino and Rommel Flores at San Francisco Homes in Mandaluyong City.

The QCPD-Dacu met the Mandaluyong Police District on Sunday arrested Aquino and Flores along San Antonio Avenue in Pasig City.

Woman accuses taxi driver, cohort of kidnapping her baby

[illegible]

she told Che Inquirer.

She added, "I had to let go because I was afraid my baby might get hurt."

She said that the three asked the driver to let her and her baby out of the cab.

Let us off. "But we already got you are Ching," she told him but the driver merely looked at her and drove on.

Added ruby she never tried to fight off the suspects, Quijano told the Inquirer, "I was nervous. I could not move. We just kept on going around Manila until it was already dark."

At around 10 p.m., she said the driver and his companion reached here to get out of the cab.

When the protested that she could not leave her baby behind, she was shoved out of the taxi cab which then sped off.

"My mind just went blank. I did not know where I am. I want to duck. I just kept on walking around. It was already morning when I realized that they had left me at Lunetta. Some people there helped me," she said.

Police David Gonzales, MPD Station 5 (sta) investigator, said that based on the victim's complaint, the lost his baby P6,000 in cards and a bag containing his daughter's clothes.

He added that Quijano described the woman who took her baby as around 30 years old, 5' 1" tall, chubby and with two dots.

According to Quijano, the baby was her third child with her live-in partner of 10 years.

"I already have a name for her, Kim Chantelle," she said, adding that she hoped that the baby would be returned to her.

Asked why she was not able to get the taxi's license plate, she told the Inquirer, "It's not my habit to do that. I just get into taxis. I regret that now."

"We are still establishing the veracity of the report but for the time being, we are giving the complainant the benefit of the doubt," MPD Station 5 commander Supt. James Abella told the Inquirer.

She [Quijano] told us that she only grew both at home. She has yet to show us pictures of her stolen baby," Abella said, adding that he found it odd that from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Monday—the period she reportedly spent inside the taxi cab—Quijano failed to ask the taxi driver with the whereabouts of her people.

"She could have simply opened the window of the taxi and ventured for help at any point but she did not. She also was not able to take note of the license plates during the [eight hour] ride," he said.

In addition, it took Quijano some time to report her ordeal although she had an opportunity for the delay.

"I did not know they (companions) left me at Lunetta. It was so dark. They took my baby and my things, and just left me. My mind was blank. I just kept walking," she told the Inquirer.

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CONTACT INFO:

Manila Office: [illegible]

Davao Office: [illegible]

E-mail add: [illegible]

Charles needs help

By S.R. Mcantos

LEUKEMIA patient Charles Andrew Bonanio may be only 4 years old, but already, he has shown a deep desire to overcome his illness and has high hopes of recovering.

"He said he wants to live a long life. He still receives treatment and has a deep faith in the Almighty," his mother, Mylene Bonanio told the Inquirer.

Bonanio, a widow since 2008, supports her five children by washing clothes for her neighbors in San Antonio Subdi. Manila.

"I have nothing left to buy for the medicines Charles takes every day," she said. The bone marrow treatments, which doctors in the Philippine General Hospital recommended for Charles every six months, cost P6,000 every session.

Bonanio can be reached at 09263122. Deposits can be made to her bankey Bonny Bonanio (Metrobank account number 1274143324.

DEMOLITION MAN

A member of a demolition team removes the roof of a condemned structure in Pitx., Manila. The Manila City government has been clearing people living in the dilapidated building to prevent deaths in case of or earthquake.

METROBRIEFS

Side mirror thieves nabbed in Mandaluyong City

TWO SUSPECTED thieves were arrested after they were caught in the act of stealing side mirrors from vehicles in Mandaluyong City yesterday. They were identified as Fredo Balagtas, 30, a resident of Guanzon City, and Reuben Lumbica, 46, a resident of Antipolo City. Senior Supt. Armando Bonoto, Mandaluyong police chief, said the men were seen by two Angat policemen stealing the side mirrors of vehicles parked at the service lot of S. Pardo and S. Francisco Streets in Barangay New Zaniganal at around 2:00 a.m. yesterday. The two were in a taxi cab with plate number TXM 542 whom they were arrested. Barangay captain Ernesto Cruz and members of Bantay Bayan gave chase and quickly caught the two men who pleaded ill under custody and other car parts. Temporarily detained at the Mandaluyong police headquarters, the two were charged with theft at the city prosecutor's office. Nina Calleja

Makati traffic enforcers to attend charm school

FILL your pockets or your license, please. A select group of Makati traffic enforcers will attend a "self-management workshop" of personality development school conducted from noon Thursday and Friday as part of the city government's traffic enhancement program, according to its human resources chief. City personnel officer Vivian Rivera-Belmor said the 30 enforcers picked to attend the workshop were expected to share their knowledge on "proper attitude and courtesy" when dealing with motorists. "We are not moving from traffic problems," Belmor quickly clarified when asked if the course for traffic enforcers were needed to deal with complaints. She said the officers were among hundreds of city government employees which earned their respective regulars with people, particularly motorists caught violating the city's strict traffic rules. The official said the enforcers underwent a training program with the charm school at least three years ago and the courses proved positive results. Mike Morales

ROMMEL C.

OPEN AUCTION OF PRIME PROPERTIES

STARPROPERTIES invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on *"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"* basis.

AUCTION DATE: JULY 15, 2011 | **AUCTION VENUE:** HOTEL INTERCON, MAKATI CITY | **REGISTRATION STARTS:** 10:00 AM | **AUCTION PROPER STARTS :** 11:00 AM

METRO MANILA

MIXED-USE PROPERTIES

SCR-010 MBP : P6,770,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — QUEZON CITY
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: No. 2 Mindanao St., Sandoval Village, Caloocan City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 528 sqm
Remarks: Accessed by Mindanao Avenue, about 200 m. NE of Quirino Highway and about 250 m. NE of the Novaliches P. O. Loop Rd.

SU-048 MBP : P12,104,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — VALENZUELA CITY
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: Brgy. Pamplona, Road, Brgy. Pamplona, Las Piñas City
Lot Area: 1,046 sqm
Floor Area: 130 sqm
Remarks: Near Nuvasia Subdivision, Pamplona Access, Pamplona High School, Las Piñas National High School and Englewood Hall

SB-473 MBP : P13,700,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — MANDALUYONG
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: No. 2004 M. Dimaano St. & No. 2006 Florida St., Brgy. Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City
Lot Area: 2,387 sqm
Remarks: Road: 14.0 m. (NE - Florida St.); 12.0 m. (SW - Dimaano Ave. & Diamond Ave.); Zone: R3; Accessible to NE, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City

SCR-06121 MBP : P19,000,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — QUEZON CITY
Location: No. 51 Kinaray-a, Brgy. Katipunan, Diliman, Quezon City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: NE corner of Kinaray-a and KCAC. About 80 m. from Katipunan Ave. and about 100 m. from Quirino Highway
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm

SBN-0278 MBP : P34,500,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — MAKATI CITY
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: No. 1 Mindanao St., Sandoval Village, Caloocan City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: About 200 m. from Quirino Highway, Novaliches Bridge, Quezon City and about 250 m. NE of Dr. Cruz Polo St. and San Francisco Rd. on the side of Novaliches P. O.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

SBN-014 MBP : P8,235,000
BONDOC GAPAL — MAKATI
Location: The Empire Place Condo., Brgy. Bonbongahan St., Tunasan, Makati
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Beside PBC Academy of Tunasan, about 100 m. from Tunasan Rotonda
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm

SBN-0156 MBP : P14,250,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — QUEZON CITY
Location: 4 Yakan Avenue B Cubao, Cubao, Quezon City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 111 sqm
Remarks: Property is one of those on the Yakan Avenue B to B Loop and about 1000 m east of the Cubao Expo Shopping Center

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

SB-474 MBP : P5,900,000
LOT ONLY — QUEZON CITY
Location: Lot 2, Block 4, Brgy. Bagong Lipunan ng Crame, Quezon City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: About 150 m. from Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) and about 500 m. from Araneta Center-Cubao

SCR-06134 MBP : P7,034,000
CONDO UNIT — QUEZON CITY
Location: Unit 2-1, Hernandez Homes, Hernandez St., Brgy. Kalayaan, New Manila, Quezon City
Floor Area: 100.00 sqm
Remarks: Accessible Hernandez St. (about 200 m. left from Gilmore Ave.) by motorcycle, tricycle, jeep or car; Approximately 2.5 km. from Aurora Blvd.

SB-496 MBP : P7,125,000
LOT ONLY — MANILA
Location: No. 2172 Pico St., Barangay 20, Tondo, Manila
Lot Area: 1,071 sqm
Remarks: About 50 m. from the Jct. of Pico St. & Asuncion St.; about 200 m. east from the Jct. of Interior St. & Road Section No. 6; about 650 m. from Abad Santos - LRT Station

SB-447 MBP : P8,695,000
PENTHOUSE UNIT — MAKATI CITY
Location: Unit 5-A/F 7 Dover, Condo. St. Bgy. Bangkal, Makati City
Floor Area: 123 sqm
Remarks: Near Market Place, Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati
Floor Area: 123 sqm

SUN-018 MBP : P9,500,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — PARANAQUE CITY
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: Lot 6 Blk 6 Sto. Niño Subd., Phase 2, Brgy. San Antonio, Parañaque City
Lot Area: 120 sqm
Floor Area: 320 sqm
Remarks: Near Multi Purpose Hall, Elementary School, Sto. Niño Church, Sto. Niño Health Center, Sto. Niño Police Station, Sto. Niño Public Market

SBN-026 MBP : P10,450,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — QUEZON CITY
Location: Lot 4-A-1 Kaio Avenue, Industrial Subd., Brgy. Payatas, Novaliches, Quezon City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: 2nd lot from the end of Don Julio Sisiguing and Manchester Ave. About 450 m. NE from Tatalon High School

SB-511 MBP : P11,733,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — VALENZUELA CITY
Location: 4630 St. Hermanos St., Bagumbayan, Valenzuela City
Lot Area: 1,131 sqm
Floor Area: 700 sqm
Remarks: Adjacent to San Roque Church; about 1 km. NW from Bonifacio Drive and about 3.5 km. NW from Valenzuela City Hall

SB-487 MBP : P12,390,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — QUEZON CITY
Location: No. 61 Katarina Street, Culiat, Quezon City
Lot Area: 900 sqm
Floor Area: 1,116 sqm
Remarks: 50 m. from the SE cor. of New York and Sgt. Catalan St. on a 14 m. wide Concrete Brgy. and 500 m. SE of Cubao Expo. Shopping Complex

SR-812 MBP : P28,218,000
3 LOTS — MANDAUE, MANDAUE
Location: Diamond Wide Corp. Complex, Subangan, Mandaue City
Lot Area: 20,117 sqm
Remarks: Near Cebu Casino Casa Regalo, Pulante Island Resort, Terrazas De Punta Tragio, and Alaska Port. Wide frontage along Cebu Wide. 100 m south from the Mandaue-Mactan Cebu Bridge

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

SP-823 MBP : P7,600,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — QUEZON PROVINCE
Location: Along Brgy. road, within Barangay Alabang, Sariaya, Quezon Province
Lot Area: 9,131 sqm
Floor Area: 600 sqm
Remarks: Located near Guevarra Hospital, St. Peter Residence C, Immaculate Lanes Village and Mercian Village

SBN-0349 MBP : P10,450,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — LIPA, BATANGAS
Location: Along Old National Road, Barangay Lodlod, Lipa City, Batangas
Lot Area: 700 sqm
Floor Area: 1,100 sqm
Remarks: Currently the site of Fil-Oil Flotilla Subdivision, 100 m. south from Lipa City Hall and approximately a KM. NE from SM Lipa City

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES

SP-019 MBP : P17,500,000
LOT ONLY — IMPERIAL CAVITE
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: Along Governor's Drive, Barrio Salitran, Carmona, Cavite
Lot Area: 5,750 sqm
Remarks: Along SE side of Governor's Drive within Argo Bazaar, near Gran Seafood, Modern Industrial Park, Gran Terminal Office

SRN-021 MBP : P23,193,000
LOT ONLY — BULACAN
Location: Lot 63, Phase 4-A, Brgy. Tabing Bakod, Bocaue, Bulacan
Lot Area: 3,174 sqm
Remarks: Near First Bocaue Subd., Pedro Talaga Subd., Brgy. Antipona, Bocaue, Bulacan. About 1 km. from Bocaue Interchange, Pulilan Highway. Frontage of 60.00 m along Pulilan Rd.

SP-018 MBP : P38,500,000
HOUSE — LAGUNA
Location: Sto. Domingo Road, Brgy. Laguna Bel-Air, Laguna
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Located along SE side Nuevas Panoramyan Road, Near Globe Centre Office, Shell Gasoline Station, Bellavista Park, Mount View Hall, Park, Pool, Tuyabingo Zone

LUZON

MIXED-USE PROPERTIES

SP-663 MBP : P5,500,000
3 LOTS — QUEZON PROVINCE
Location: Brgy. Bukal Pag-asa, Calauan, Laguna
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Along Brgy. Road, Highway and Mall of Calauan

SUN-021 MBP : P7,700,000
2 LOTS W/ IMPVT — LUCENA
Location: Along National Road, Brgy. Pahinga, Tayabas, Quezon
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Located at Lot 1, Tayabas Public Market, about 0.5 km. from Pahinga Elem. School, about 0.6 km. north from Bantog Elementary School

SBN-0247 MBP : P14,450,000
3 LOTS W/ IMPVT — LIPA, BATANGAS
Location: No. 158 Barrio Ilog, Poblacion 2, Lipa City, Batangas
Lot Area: 500 sqm
Floor Area: 1,200 sqm
Remarks: Formerly the site of Ilog Hondo. About 0.7 km. NW from McDonalds and 10 m. from San Sebastian De San Sebastian

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

SPM-003 MBP : P1,200,000
CONDO UNIT — LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: Alfonso Apartments, Brgy. Poblacion, La Trinidad, Benguet
Lot Area: 24.0 sqm
Remarks: Architectural scheme as per HLURB approved Condominium Plan. Approximately 8 km. from Benguet-Lamut Road

SBN-0360 MBP : P11,300,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — NUEVA ECIJA
Location: Lot 1, 1700 Agapito Aquino Ave., Brgy. 1-A, Bitas, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: About 10 m. NE from Cabanatuan Public Plaza. About 44.77 m. frontage along Aquino Ave.

SCR-08150 MBP : P22,000,000
TOWNHOUSE UNIT — CAINTA, RIZAL
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: Townhouse project, Brgy. 68-A, Caloocan City
Lot Area: 46.000 sqm
Remarks: Near Emmanuel Baptist Learning Center, approximately 200 m. from Northwestern University and Gulod Airport Road

MINDANAO

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

SB-039 MBP : P14,400,000
LOT ONLY — TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL
Location: Gen. Luna Highway, Brgy. Bolod, Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot on Highway 4 and Bolod Public Market. Across Bolod Town Plaza and about 1 km. from Tagbilaran Port. Fronting Gen. Luna Highway

MIXED-USE PROPERTY

SU-488 MBP : P7,942,000
LOT W/ IMPVT — DAVAO CITY
Location: Lot 1, Blk 1, Bonifacio Homes, Brgy. Bago Gallera, Davao City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: Accessible from Bonifacio Homes Main Gate and Brgy. Road; Approximately 1.5 km. from Davao-Bukidnon-Cotabato Road; Approximately 2 km. from Davao International Airport

AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

SU-181 MBP : P16,260,000
LOT — DAVAO CITY
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: Mintal-Tugbok District, Davao City
Lot Area: 10,000 sqm
Remarks: Accessible from Davao-Bukidnon-Cotabato Road; Approximately 1.5 km. from Davao International Airport; Approximately 2 km. from Davao-Bukidnon-Cotabato Road

AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

SP-687 MBP : P5,580,000
LOT ONLY — BULACAN
Location: Barrio Sapang, Bulacan
Lot Area: 100,000 sqm
Remarks: Property fronts Sapang Road, Barrio Sapang, Bulacan. Approximately 500 m. NE from Bocaue Town Plaza. 500 m. NE of Bocaue Bridge, and about 1 km. from Pulilan Commercial District

SB-304 MBP : P10,399,000
LOT ONLY — LAGUNA
★ TCT'S NOW UNDER SELLER'S NAME ★
Location: Lot 7297-D Lagos Verde, Pulilan, Bulacan
Lot Area: 10,000 sqm
Remarks: Located on the NW side of Lagos Verde subdivision. Approximately 1.5 km. from Bocaue Bridge

SB-317 MBP : P12,194,000
LOT ONLY — BULACAN
Location: Sitio Cawayan, Brgy. Tabing Bakod, Bocaue, Bulacan
Lot Area: 10,000 sqm
Remarks: Accessible from the new and Pulilan-Bocaue Diversion Road. Approximately 500 m. from Bocaue Bridge on Capitoline Side

SB-348 MBP : P22,847,000
LOT ONLY — TAGAYTAY CITY
Location: Lot 2-A-2-B, Brgy. Halang, Dayap Tractor, Calamba, Laguna
Lot Area: 11,000 sqm
Remarks: Property is on the south side of Halang Road and connected the West Loma to Expressway and Dayap Tractor. Approximately 1.5 km. from Calamba Bypass Road

SB-341 & 342 MBP : P52,200,000
LOT ONLY — CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Location: Lot 6-A-1-A and 6-A-1-B, Highway, Pansol, Calamba, Laguna
Lot Area: 21,788 sqm
Remarks: Lots along south side of National Rd. and connected the Pansol Public Market and Pansol Elementary School. Approximately 2 km. from Calamba Bypass Road

SB-343 MBP : P12,200,000
LOT ONLY — CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Location: Lot 6-A-1-C-2, Brgy. Halang, Calamba, Laguna
Lot Area: 10,000 sqm
Remarks: Property is on the south side of National Rd. and connected the West Loma to Expressway and Dayap Tractor. Approximately 1.5 km. from Calamba Bypass Road

SB-344 MBP : P14,400,000
LOT ONLY — CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Location: Lot 6-A-1-C-1, Brgy. Halang, Calamba, Laguna
Lot Area: 12,000 sqm
Remarks: Property is on the south side of National Rd. and connected the West Loma to Expressway and Dayap Tractor. Approximately 1.5 km. from Calamba Bypass Road

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The WORLD

Libby Lawrence B. Gomez

Obama: If I were Weiner, I'd resign

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama ramped up pressure on Monday on Democratic Rep. Anthony Weiner to step down, calling his Internet sex scandal a distraction from the work that Washington needs to get done.

"I can tell you that if it were me, I would resign," Obama told KSL News shortly before the US House of Representatives, without opposition, granted Weiner a two-week leave of absence while the New York congressman gets professional help for his addiction to sexting.

Weiner, 46, has defied mounting calls from other leaders of his own party to step down after his belated admission last week that he sent lewd online messages and lewd photos of himself to at least a half dozen women and lied about it.

Weiner's refusal to resign has angered Democrats, who say his inappropriate online exchanges with women have hurt the party as it looks ahead to crucial mid-year elections and where it will seek to win back the House from Republicans.

The congressman said through an aide over the weekend that he would take a leave of absence from the House and treatment at an undisclosed facility.

"We think this is a distraction obviously from the important business that this president needs to conduct and Congress needs to conduct," White House Press Secretary Jay Carney told reporters aboard Air Force One as Obama headed to North Carolina to talk to business leaders about invigorating the US economy.

Later Monday, Obama told NBC, when asked about Weiner, "Public service is exactly that: it's service to the public."

"When you get to the point where—because of various personal distractions, you can't serve as effectively as you need to at the time where people are worrying about jobs and their mortgages, and paying the bills—then you should probably step back," the president said in his first comments on the matter.

Obama's trip on Monday to North Carolina was part of a stepped-up effort by the White House to show voters that he remains focused on job creation.

With the White House increasing Weiner of being an unnecessary distraction for the president, the Library Hotel group had a difficult to step on.

Weiner, who was reelected last November with 61 percent of the vote in his congressional district, has said his behavior was wrong but that he deserves to keep his job.

In a one-hour rebuke, if anything, Congress can do to force Weiner to step down. A poll last week showed that most of his constituents think he should remain in his job.

The full House could vote to expel Weiner, but such punishment would be highly unusual unless it is found that he violated criminal law, not just the chamber's rules.

The House returned on Monday from a week-long recess, and the chamber's Democratic were to meet on Tuesday, with Weiner likely to head topic.

A Democratic aide said they could pass a resolution urging Weiner to resign. While it would not be binding, it would show that Weiner have a solid wall of opposition in his own party.

The Democratic caucus could also urge Weiner of his committee assignments and even influential Democrats to not accept his campaign contributions. He also said, the new session on the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has requested an ethics probe to determine whether Weiner broke any laws. The probe could take months, even up to a year.

Reuters

OBAMA

WEINER

Pentagon Papers out 40 years after leak

WASHINGTON—Four decades ago, a young defense analyst leaked a top-secret study packed with damaging revelations about US conduct of the Vietnam War. Monday, the study, dubbed the Pentagon Papers, finally came out in complete form. It is a totalitarian for which's known everywhere and just the sort of look that gives pessimists fits to this day.

The documents show that almost from the opening lines, it was apparent that the authors knew they had produced a loser's creed.

In his Jan. 15, 1969, confidential memorandum introducing the report to the defense chief, the date of the final force that produced the study hinted at the explosive nature of the materials. "Writing history, especially when it blends into current events, is usually when that comes more a Vietnam, is a tendentious exercise," Leslie H. Gelb wrote.

Asked by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara to do an "encyclopedic and objective" study of US involvement in Vietnam from World War II to 1967, the team of three dozen analysts poured over a trove of Pentagon, CIA and State Department documents with "just like diligence," he wrote.

Their work revealed a pattern of deception by the Lyndon Johnson, John Kennedy and prior administrations to their secretly escalated the conflict while assuring the public that, in Johnson's words, the US did not seek a wider war.

The National Archives released the Pentagon Papers in full on Monday and put them online, long after most of the secrets spilled. The release was timed 40 years to the day after The New York Times published the first in its series of stories about the findings, on June 13, 1971, prompting President Richard Nixon to try to suppress publication and touch off a government court battle over freedom of the press.

Prepared over the end of Johnson's term by Defense Department and private analysts, the report was leaked primarily by one of them, Daniel Ellsberg, in a bunch act of defiance that ultimately led to one of the most dramatic episodes of which the history in US history.

As a leaked paper was over the 47-volume report, Ellsberg said the chance of them finding good news revelations to this. Most of it has come out in congressional forums and by other means, and Ellsberg pleaded out the best when he painstakingly photocopied pages that he spirited from a safe night after night, and composed in the mornings.

He told The Associated Press the value in Monday's release was in having the entire study finally brought together and put online, giving today's generation readily access to it.

At the time, Nixon was delighted that people were reading about bumbling and lies by his predecessors, which he thought would take some sentsee heat off him. But if he loved the revelations of the leak, he hated the leaker.

He called the leak an act of treachery and vowed that the people behind it "have to be put in the brig." He feared that Ellsberg represented a left-wing cabal that would undermine his own administration, with disengaging documents if the government did not make him so entangle his ex all others with knowledge.

AP

Dalai Lama mistakes Australian PM for a man

CANBERRA—It may be just as well that the Dalai Lama has given up his political role after the revered Tibetan spiritual leader on Monday referred to Australia's female prime minister as a man.

Questioned on whether he was disappointed that Julia Gillard would not be meeting him during his visit, the globe-trotting cleric replied: "Yes."

"If your prime minister has some kind of spiritual interest then, of course, my meeting would be useful," he told reporters in Parliament House.

"Otherwise, I have nothing to ask him. Also you are there's no point to seek advice from him."

He was quickly corrected by one of his aides, who quietly said: "Her."

"Oh, from her," the 75-year-old said with a laugh.

Gillard, the first woman to lead Australia, later defended Dalai Lama's right to meet with politicians, saying the visit is for parent matter to the country.

"I think he's been here four times in the last five years. On some occasions he has met with the prime ministers, on others he hasn't," she told reporters in Canberra.

Gillard said under leading partner China, which regards the Tibet Lama as a separatist, had not influenced her decision.

"I make my own decisions and the government makes its own decisions about meetings that are held," she said.

But the Australia Tibet Council said it was disappointed by the result.

AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Ash clouds cancel flights

BUENOS AIRES—The drifting plume of ash from Chile's erupting volcano forced new cancellations of dozens of flights on Monday in Argentina, bringing another blow to the devastating tourism and airlines in the Andes-bisected region.

Handling of volcanic ash can be catastrophic. Ramon Avery says many apparently recovered on Monday after halting flights for a day due to the cloud of fine grit, which can damage airplane engines. The civil aviation agency said the ash is thin air had diminished. The ruled skies has drifted across the Pacific Ocean and caused flight between Australia and New Zealand remained grounded. All flights were canceled at the international airport in Christchurch, Uruguay, and some were grounded in Chile, Paraguay and Brazil. Chile's Puyehue-Cordon Caulle region erupting on June 4.

AP

Gandhi's spectacles missing

MUMBAI—A pair of round-framed spectacles belonging to India's nationalist leader Mahatma Gandhi have gone missing from a museum in western India, officials said. Staff at the Sevagram Ashram, a religious retreat some three hours drive city of Nagpur, realized that the glasses had disappeared as they made preparations to mark the anniversary of the founding. Gandhi had set up the ashram to oversee the burgeoning movement in northwest Maharashtra state, in the early 1930s. The Quit India resolution calling for independence from the British was passed there in July 1942. The spectacles were among a number of personal items, including some sandals and a bathroom brush, on display in a locked china cabinet.

AP

China floods kill 105

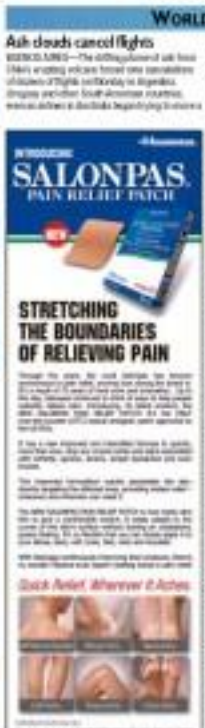
BEIJING—China says the death toll from a record flooding has risen to 105 people with 60 others missing. The Ministry of Civil Affairs said on Tuesday that most of the deaths were in central Hunan province and that 1.4 million people are evacuated to overcome conditions. Heavy rains have left roads and landslides have already killed 30 people there, with 21 others missing. The ministry says 30 million yuan ($5 million) has been allocated to central Southern provinces for disaster relief. Twenty-four people have died in Guizhou and another 32 are missing. The interior says it is also distributing 5,000 tents and 81,000 blankets to the flood-affected.

AP

7 killed in Qaida raid

BAGHDAD—Insurgents set off two car bombs, and two suicide bombers, killing at least seven, in an al-Qaida night raid on government offices in northern Iraq on Tuesday, the second such attack in March. The dozens of gunmen taking part in the mayhem in Diyala's provincial capital of Baquba also set hostages gunfire with Iraqi security forces, with officials warning that the toll could exceed the 17 wounded, could rise. The attacks underscore concerns that the capabilities of Iraq's security forces, with just months to go before US soldiers must leave the country, on the brink of a bilateral security pact.

AP



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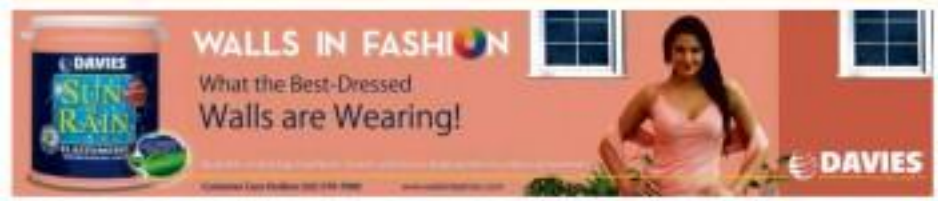

TNT, Alaska collide today

By Herang R. Casilao

TALK 'N TEXT can ensure itself the PBA's fifth Grand Slam, and Alaska, the last team to pull off the feat, clash tonight to open their respective Governor's Cup campaigns at the Araneta Coliseum.

Game time is 7:35 p.m. with the Tropang Texters hoping to oust the runner-up in the very first Battle of the Last One—with a win—even as Rain or Shine gears for the rudely rude head against the 12.

All eyes will definitely be on the Texters as they unveil Ritualo's Galaxy one of four imports in the tournament under 6-foot-2. Alaska will be featured by a returnee in Jason Weir.

The Batang Pinoy, after plastering the Derby Ace Llamados in Tacloban City last Saturday, will be looking for their second straight win against alpha Barangay and the Express.

In a related development, the A12 deal that brought the disbanded Purefoods Star franchise finally reached the Office of the Commissioner yesterday formally informing the league of A12 owner Bert Lina's intent to purchase a second PBA team.

There were no attachments in the formal notice, said commissioner Chito Salud, could not confirm the reported "more than P6-crore" price tag of the Bambo Ball franchise.

The matter will be included in the agenda of today's emergency board meeting which was originally intended to tackle the whereabouts center issue after TNT, the only holder for the option, withered its original P6.7 million offer to P600 million for five years.

If approved by the board, the deal will make Lina the third man to own at least two teams in the PBA after Ramon S. Ang of San Miguel, who has three, and Manny V. Pangilinan of Talk 'N Text, who also controls Meralco.

Returned players Kelly Williams and Jimmy Alapag will suit up for the Texters, who hope to join Ginebra, which has two, San Miguel and Alaska as the only teams with triple crowns.

"Of course, there is added pressure," Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes said over the phone, who is stranded in the Grand Slam bid would affect the tournament for them. "But we try to put that in the back of our minds and focus on Alaska.

"Every team would want to step as front enhancing it," Reyes said.

Williams and Alapag, after playing for the Texters last year, will be returned back to the Smart-Gilas program that will try to bag for the Philippines a London Olympic berth in the Fiba-Asia qualifying in China in September.

Interestingly, Alaska will not only be trying to protect their 1996 feat, but will also attempt to end the season with a season-ender ending last year's Fiesta Conference with the inevitable Dirtmen Jumpers battling the Aces.

Reyes will be on Alaska's head coster, which will now only month on Lit Tenorio and Cyrus Baguio after the Aces traded many Joe Devance for A12's Jeyr-R Reyes. Devance eventually wound up with Emby Aco.

4 PBA stars to miss Gilas' Seaba, Jones Cup stints

By Jure Navarro

OPTING TO rest up for their mother ballclubs, the four Philippine Basketball Association players banned to board Gilas Pilipinas will not be present in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association Championship next week and could miss the William Jones Cup in August as well.

Final coach Ryuhei Tawonan yesterday confirmed that Jimmy Alapag and Kelly Williams of Talk 'N Text, Asi(t) Davidon Southwoods and Brandon's Air Timbers will play for their respective teams for the duration of the season-ending Governor's Cup.

The Seaba is scheduled June 23 to 26 in Jakarta, where the top three countries will represent the region in the Fiba Asia Championship in Wuhan, China in Sept. 13 to 25.

The last elimination-round playdate of the ongoing Governor's Cup is on July 10 while the finals is projected to end Aug. 13 at the latest.

Since the Jones Cup will be held on Aug. 6 to 14, chances are the PBA team would skip the Taipei joust, the last major tourney for the Nationals before going to the Asian Championship.

"It really depends on their teams' performance in the conference," said Tawonan. "We just have to keep on working and not get distracted."

The PBA board of governors has not a resolution then since the four players can't opt for their teams, they have to finish the entire conference before rejoining the national squad.

Tawonan played for the Boks in their 105-100 victory over Petron Blaze while Yeng-Guiao, Alapag and Williams will see action today when they face Air Swift Gilas Pilipinas and TNT tackles Meralco at the Big Dome.

Tawonan and Southwoods helped Smart Gilas to a fourth place finish in the recent Fiba Asia Champions Cup.

After the Seaba, the Nationals will take a train in Portugal and Turkey next month prior to the Jones Cup, where they got to test some of the teams playing in Wuhan.

Except for China and South Korea, most of the countries see the Jones Cup as preparation for the Asian Championship, which is the key to the continental spot for the 2012 London Olympics.

NLEX torches C. Lhuillier 5

Road Warriors near crown

By Jasmine W. Payo

SLUGGERRRY two-much Bonjourney at Gilbert Lhuillier to roll to a 76-62 victory and move within a win of claiming the first PBA D-League Foundation Cup championship.

Ronald Pascual and Ogie Menor led the onslaught outburst, guards Eric Salamat and Rainbow Raymundo effectively orchestrated plays and Clifford Hodge blocked a record seven shots to fuel the Road Warriors in Game 1 of the best-of-three series at the FEATI Flying V arena in San Juan.

"We just had a very aggressive defensive plan," said NLEX coach Boyet Fernandez. "We wanted to limit Cebuanas to 60 points."

With everyone embracing their roles, the Road Warriors built a 15-point cushion, 51-36, and held it until the end of the way.

Pascual just finished a rebound short of a double-double with 17 points and nine boards as just the Road Warriors.

Menor shot 6 of 13 from the field to finish with 14 points while the Filipino-American Hodge posted 10 markers, five rebounds and all but two of his team's nine blocks.

Raymundo, who helped sparked the second-quarter binge, and Salamat also delivered on the unsung end.

"I'm just happy that my players did the job," said Fernandez. "They executed the game plan, big credit to the guys."

NLEX can wrap up the series in Game 2 tomorrow at 3 p.m. at the Fiesta Sports Arena.

"We just have to enjoy this victory for just about 30 minutes to an hour," said Fernandez. "We have to focus again, Cebuanas is a strong team."

The scores:

NLEX 76 – Pascual 17, Menor 14, Hodge 10, Raymundo 9, Salamat 7, Ilo 7, Orbeta 5, Jaymo 3, Mangahas 0, Mallari 0, Ayaay 0, Sena 0, Nelson 0, Alegre 0, Nabong 0, Cortez 0, Calma 0, Simon 0, Canaleta 0.

C. Lhuillier 62 – Nalos 21, Baguia 9, Semerad 8, Mendoza 6, Hayes 5, Sena 4, Nelson 3, Alegre 3, Nabong 2, Cortez 1, Calma 0, Simon 0, Canaleta 0.

Quarters: 20-11, 39-29, 57-47, 76-62

CENSARAW. Lhuillier guard Kevin Alas tramples on Ian Sangalang of NLEX, applies pressure in yesterday's lopsided match.

BEST AMATEUR. Cristora Banda displays her trophy after the ICTSI golf team sportsfest bagged two amateur honors in the recent Toyota's Open, a major event on the Japan LPGA Tour, at the Rabbit Hakone Golf Club in Kodoa, Japan.

Wesley cops Sweden chess title

Final standings:

2.0—**R. Ki Philippines**; 2. Jon Hakansson, Sweden; 3.5—Ali Nemer, Syria; 3.5—R. Sandstrom, Sweden; 3.5—2. Stefan Djukanovic

MALMO, Sweden—Filipino grandmaster Wesley So defended with entire precision and came away with a crushing victory over Swedish GM Jonny Hector in the fifth and final round to finish in a three-way tie for first place in the Sigeman and Co. chess tournament at the Chemical Hipp Theater in Malmo on Monday.

So finished with 5.0 points like defending champion GM Anish Giri of the Netherlands and GM Hans Tikkanen of Sweden in the six-player round-robin tournament held for the 19th straight year.

No fisticuffs was entertained, although So had a superior performance rating of 2680, Giri had 2680 and Tikkanen 2751.

The 17-year-old Filipino champ, handily leathered by his stunning fourth-round loss to Sweden GM Nils Grandelius, found the right reply against the ostentatious attack by doctor during the four-hour-long struggle.

"I knew from everything in the normal equation that, even sacrificing a knight up and later a rook to finish off black's king out of its safety abode. But the sacrifices did not matter in the end.

The pride of Barcon, Cavite, who is hoping to breach the Elo 2700-barrier this year, announced with his own attack and threatened mate in one when Hector finally called it a night.

Newly crowned Pinkay Cup champion GM Darwin Laylo said So's exceptional preparation with the French defense had something that surprising. It's clear [as well-]fought match.

Grandelius and top-seed GM Alexei Shirov of Spain battled to a draw.

Shirov, the former world champ, rankup candidate who lost to So in the second round, finished with fourth.

Over the past Sigeman Chess tests GM Tiger Peterson (2006), GM Ivan Cheparinov (2007), GM Jan Timman (2008), GM Krishnan Sasikiran (2009), GM Peter Heine Nielsen (2010), GM Vassily Ivanchuk (2011), GM Boris Gelfand (2001), GM Judit Polgar (2002), GM Alexander Morozevich (1999), GM Joel Lautier (1998), GM Peter Leko (1996), and GM Ivan Sokolov (1995).

PH U-16 five braces for two tough tournaments

By Cedrill P. Tupas

THE EMERGING Filipinas Under-16 basketball squad is bracing for a tough grind in the next few months as it ups its two important international meets.

The Filipina cagers will see action in the 2nd Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) U-16 Qualifying Championship in Bantog City, Selangor, Malaysia, on Aug. 9 to 11.

The toughest challenge, however, will come on Oct. 10 to 20 when the team of coach Chuck Saulog competes in the Fiba Asia U-16 Championship in Vietnam.

"This team has a lot of potential," said Saulog during the PBA Forum yesterday at Shakey's UN Avenue in Manila. "I'm confident we can do well."

Team manager Jose Manuel Lopa of Tao Corp. sachet-ail Energen's support, which started three years ago under coach Frank Hamilton.

The team underwent training camp in Indonesia last month under former NBA assistant coach Ed Geisling, one action in the junior division of the FIBA Flying V Preseason tournament and played on MBMon games in the NBTC finals.

Lopa said the squad has a pool of 18 players in anticipation of the schedule conflicts that may arise with the holding of the NCAA and UAAP tournaments, where most of his players are active.

"We're keeping the pool because there could be scheduling problems," Lopa told the forum sponsored by Level, Smart, Shakey's, Outlast Battery and Pepsi.

Among the notable team members are Virginia-based standout Louie Bey Ibrahim, son of former national player Louie Ibrahim, 6-foot-4 California-bound King Caguilan, and 6-3 Gilmer Salubayba, son of the late PBA player Gilo Salubayba.

Manny's Bora paradise in troubled waters

IN HUDDLE

Bert Gelo

AMID HE dropped in to the Boracay Convention Center during the PBA All-Star in search of friends from Manila to dinner, businessman Crisostomo "CJ" Iguina invited us here on holiday from the money I'd like to Boracay was planning to close his plush beach resort.

CJ's visit to be a regular feature in the PBA, especially during Pambesh games, but this was years before he became a real estate developer. Perhaps the major talk was to carry the Philippine flag before a Pangasian flight.

For now, you've seen this chubby, jolly-looking fellow on television or one dozen of number.

Years ago, when Bobi Dumlao and Jerry Codiñera were still playing, CJ's favorite and I'd Pambesh game. He was a diehard fan of the Tondo' story hookup and always wore a hula cap with a huge hooking on it.

* * *

On the first day of the PBA All-Star weekend in Boracay last month, CJ stopped by the convention center, the venue of the festivities, to invite friends to his Boracay Tubo Cove Resort, which he reportedly co-owns with Pacquiao.

I can't recall who asked him why we no longer see him carry the Philippine flag during Pacquiao fights.

CJ's assistant to his handling the subject, or maybe he didn't hear the answer because he neither reacted nor responded to the query.

* * *

A big entourage of PBA officials, staff and players checked in hotels overlooking Puka Island were treated and feted by CJ in the following night at his sprawling beach resort.

Stained of the hilly terrain, CJ decided to skip the dinner, all on the guest of CJ at this wine opened some appetizers which might have been difficult to answer.

I really wanted to see the place, thinking that it was also the property of the boxing's greatest for quoted kids. They're usually stronger. Pacquiao's Tubo Cove Resort TV that he co-owns the resort.)

Less than a month after CJ hosted his dinner, Mayor John Yap ordered the closure of the Boracay West Cove Resort on the ground that it operated without a permit.

Yap plans to eventually demolish the resort, because he said it was built illegally.

CJ explained that he has been trying to secure a permit from the mayor's office, but has been unsuccessful so far.

A colleague speculated that the Boracay Beat Cove is where Benjamin Godinez presents to hand heiress Paris Hilton when she comes to the country next month to host for pond the business seminar.

Paris intends to put up a beach club here.

My colleagues and Boracay property owners and investors close to Yap, aware of the possible tuff competition, must have talked the mayor into tapping the big projects in the bud.

* * *

Although he recently purchased a P300-million property in Forbes Park, Manny Pacquiao was reportedly refused membership in the exclusive Manila Polo Club, which is located inside the exclusive village.

Even if you're in the Forbes list of 40 richest Filipinos, you may not be accepted into the elite conservative, exclusive country club, according to colleague Al Mendoza.

Star entertainment editor Ricky Lo also wrote in his column that Pilipino Republican and an less than MD-CDO's top honcho Cesar Gaston Cuyugan, suffered the same fate as Pacquiao.

"Boxie Ancar was denied [membership] in the heights of her stardom, and even Vice President Jejomar Binay met the misery of Makati, was refused membership because he was not a member," Al said.

"Sometimes it takes only one member to object, without explanation, to stop the entry of an applicant," said Peping Arias, president of the Black Rock Country Club.

"Every club has its own set of rules and policies."

SPORTSWATCH

'Big Event' set June 17 at PCC

GOLFERS WILL battle for big garnishee bounties from the provinces and their Metro Manila counterparts during the Cebu at the Pasay City Golf Club on the Bombay Golf Course Course.

Former Philippine amateur Benny Galicinao, winner of the NCR World Championship 8 Club derby last month, will host the event.

Top bounties from Davao, Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Bacolod-city, Iloilo, Iloilo, Pampanga, Bulacan and Pangasinan are finalizing, as well as members of the National Coolers Association and Pepsi-Cornpil Coolers Association.

Guaranteed prize is expected to reach P1.5 million.

For inquiries, call 8411000 and 8411148.

BY TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Li Na's recipe

HEART, SOUL, SPORTS

Tommy Manotoc

All SPORTS real fanatics, we are always curious to know what it takes to be a champion.

Is there a fixed regimen that will ensure an athlete's success in any given sport?

Li Na's victory at the French Open last week showed some revealing insights into the making of a champion.

Being a Asian, I've closely followed her very interesting career.

She began as one of the pair ball strikers that came out of China and showed imagination that the other Chinese players did not seem to have.

Her road to success has not been an easy one, however.

A few years back, she retired from the game completely and went back to school.

She resumed as tennis after less than a year, but this time she had the freedom to manage her own career, choose her own coaches and step away from the rules and regulations that Chinese coaches impose on their athletes.

And more important by she now seems to be enjoying the game much more.

Her journey to the finals at the Australian Open last January was an indication of what was to come.

Understandably, after her run at the Australian, her performance took a nose dive. She decided to replace her husband-coach with a new one, in order to help her train for the clay court season.

This proved to be a wise move, as we all now except TV viewers.

Athletes in individual sports like tennis, bowling, golf, swimming, boxing, badminton and table tennis have to be trained differently from athletes in team sports, who have to function as a group.

In these sports, the player must be given the freedom to flourish and the space to use his own imagination as an individual.

He must also be given the freedom, as Li Na had been, to choose her own coach/mentor.

The support between athlete and coach-mentor is of supreme importance. Their relationship must be determined to a great degree the athlete's performances, and thus the outcome of the match.

Tiger Woods had Butch Harmon. Boris Becker had Ion Tiriac. Pete Sampras had Tim Gullikson. Steffi Graf had Pam Shriver. Roger Federer and many others.

Perhaps it's time we listen to our own athletes and see if they are likewise benefiting in this way.

Please send comments to: tommymanotoc@yahoo.com

WORLD SPORTS

Tiger's caddie tutes new bag

BETHESDA, Maryland—Adam Scott may get long-term attention than usual Monday at the US Open, and not only because he is coming off a career-at finishes his most recent major at the Masters.

It was because of the new cart-bag he dons. Steve Williams, the caddie for Tiger Woods since March 1999 who has been on the bag for a record 13 majors, appeared to work for the 30-year-old Australian. Despite speculation, Williams is temporarily filling in. Woods is out of the US Open with injuries to his left leg, and Scott is in the process of finding a new caddie.

Asked if this could be a long-term relationship, Scott replied, "We'll see. Tiger's got another's here, too."

Williams also will be at the AT&T National in two weeks outside Philadelphia, working either for Scott or Woods if his regular boss can adjust. Except he likes that if it ends up that he and Williams bonding by Scott, it was slightly odd for the New Zealand caddie, too.

"I haven't caddied for another player since I started with Tiger," Williams said. AP

Derek limps off after 2,994

NEW YORK—Derek Jeter limped off the field with a sore right calf four innings after getting his 2,994th hit on Carlos Carrasco's second-inning double to pitch the Cleveland Indians past the New York Yankees 1-0 Monday.

Jeter headed for a hospital for an MRI exam, which showed a strain. He will be out at least a week. The Yankees said they would determine the next step Tuesday. He apparently first felt tightness on a second-inning ground out to shortstop.

The Yankees traded the bases without outs in the third against Carrasco (6-3), but he got out of the jam on a fielder's choice and a pop out.

Michael Brantley tripled off the glove of diving right fielder Nick Swisher in the fourth and later scored. Carrasco recovered an RBI single he left field. AP

The Yankees' 28th title take if Jeter, chasing his 3,000th hit, will be available immediately in the next match. AP

Champions return home

Mavericks finally bring crown to Dallas

THERE will be one more painful memories of the 2006 title defeat for Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki (right) and Jason Terry. AFP/GETTY

DALLAS—After winning the franchise's first NBA crown, the Dallas Mavericks arrived here on Monday amid cheers from hundreds of fans celebrating the first professional championship of any kind for the area in more than a decade.

Owner Mark Cuban was the first to step off the plane at Love Field, carrying the championship trophy. How came Dirk Nowitzki with hardware of his own. The NBA finals MVP trophy that was awarded after he dominated a league team, thrust and smothering defense from the Heat to power comeback wins.

In Nowitzki's Germany, two-sized wonder also sent their congratulations after the Mavericks beat the Miami Heat, 105-95, to capture the crown with a 4-2 series victory.

Germany soccer legend Franz Beckenbauer said that Nowitzki's success "is worst a long journey" and that "there is no one who has earned the championship more than Dirk."

Germany football coach Joachim Loew also offered his congratulations.

While the Mavs were celebrating in the cozy things thing for Miami were questions on Ron Artest's performance.

With all the talent that some from their free agent signings in the offseason, many figured Dwyane Wade, how could James and the Heat lose the NBA finals to an upstart in Rondo. Is tied the Mavs?

"It is a failure for myself losing to the Mavericks. Absolutely," said Lebron James.

"The Heat had a chance to sweep the series and failed to execute down the stretch of games especially," Hall of Fame NBA coach Jack Ramsay told Reuters via Monday.

Cuban said he hopes the year is going at least through Thursday morning, the date set for the victory parade.

Team spokesperson Sarah Melton confirmed the date Monday, but said the precise route and other details would be announced Tuesday.

The Mavs were once one of the worst in the NBA, and, even after Cuban's infusion of cash and energy, had a reputation of failing to win big games—including a loss to Miami in the 2006 finals after leading the series 2-0.

In Miami, the Miami Herald immediately ran an advertisement from a US retailer to its Monday editions congratulating the Heat for winning the Eastern title.

The Herald was not immediately available for comment but its website has posted a correction that reads: "A Macy's advertisement featuring Miami Heat merchandise was mistakenly published June 13 ... is some editions of The Miami Herald. We regret the error and apologize for any inconvenience." AP/Reuters, AFP

JAMES: Blunders follow

HURAY!

Murray clips Tsonga, rules Wimbledon warmup anew

LONDON—Andy Murray claimed his first title of the season by beating 8th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, 3-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4, Monday in the final at Queen's Club.

The match was played a day later because rain postponed play on Sunday.

Murray, who also won in the title in 2009, is the first Briton to win the Wimbledon warmup at least twice since Tommy Godfrey's latest wins in 1933-34 and '35.

Both players were evenly matched and showed great athleticism, with Murray's speed matched by Tsonga's greater volleying ease to score in the net.

It was Murray though, who earned the only break of the final set, taking a decisive 5-2 lead on his 40th break point of the match when Tsonga sent a forehand down the line and it hit wide.

"It was an unbelievable week for me," Murray said. "I started off not playing great but managed to find my way through, and the last two matches were so much fun."

As for his next big challenge, Murray said: "I really look forward to Wimbledon. It's been good preparation this week and I'll work hard the next few or six days to get ready." AP

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Magna Carta rules second TC leg

By Manuel R. Carallo

MAGNA CARTA ran down Lord of War in the stretch over the weekend and won away with the second leg of the 2011 Triple Crown series at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, ensuring that a sweep will not happen for the 10th straight year.

Jessie B. Guce guided Magna Carta, second placer in the first leg, perfectly in the tight battle for home, winning by half a length over Lord of War for the P1.8 million winner's prize.

Top pick and first-leg winner Hari ng Tondo was a big disappointment, finishing dead last in the nine-horse field as the colt failed to show even a glimpse of the talent that won him the first leg recently.

Silver Story was the last horse to ever complete a sweep of the series, doing it in 2001.

So far, only eight have gone out to become TC champions. Run and Spunic, the short-nosed colt, was the first champion.

"We will prepare and just hope for the best in the third leg," trainer Michael Jurez said. "We ran a perfect race."

Meanwhile, Clavoe Mesa, owned by Sion Enquiver Farms, the Philippine Stagefield Stakes Race over a field of 13 horses and a distance of 1,750 meters while Mathews World owned by Renalyn Mesia topped the Philippine Derby Sweepstakes Offline Special Maiden Race.

MAGNA Carta, ridden by jockey Jessie Guce, in a tight win over Lord of War with jockey Valeroso Dilema aboard in the second leg of the Triple Crown at the San Lazaro Leisure & Business Park.

Clavecilla begins quest for record 6th Senior crown

A CONFIDENT Iggy Clavecilla eyes a sixth straight championship in the Philippine Junior Mechanics and Otto's Automotive at Binan's Complex course in Silang, Cavite.

Clavecilla drew fellow Alabang Int' Glen Gonzaliano, child Int' Pepot Mapa and Del Monte's Ian Lagumbay in the fourth flight as No. 1 at 8 a.m. today. Chief Otto Patrick Gaston is grouped in the earlier flight with Jose Mari Mechanics and Otto's Automotive of Carlalung and Macky Herrera of Del Monte.

Out to foil Clavecilla's bid are, among others, Rolly Vinuy, Bing Bonjoc and Tony Cabrera of Carlalung, Del Monte's Pfl. Sison and Jun Balagot and Valley Golf's Rong Vildoza.

Marcelo returns with a bang

STEPHANO Marcelo celebrates at the finish line.

ROGNING TITLIST Stefano Marcelo pulled off a big comeback triumph and boosted his bid for a fourteen-run records in the third leg of the 2011 Petron Karting Series Enduro at the Rosenland Kart Track of the CCP Complex.

Marcelo stole the limelight from TJ Saba with a decisive maneuver in the final race to claim his second win and moved closer toward an unprecedented fourth Karter of the Year plum.

Saba, zooming on a borrowed engine from Kart Plaza, dominated the qualifying heat and the Pre-Final and even trailed the compe in the early goings of the Final race.

Marcelo, using glong to adjust his tire set-up, latched Fourth in the qualifying heat and fin- ished behind Saba in the Pre-Final. It was only in the Final race where Marcelo found the right set-up.

And before end of the tenth lap, Marcelo severed the lead as Saba opened wide as the backstretch and held it till the end.

Steve Silva, Courtesy Bastar

Romero, Padilla target first Olympic medal in shooting

By Jure Navarro

MORE shooters mean more chances of hitting the target of a first-ever Olympic medal in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Games.

With this in mind, shooting chief Milbert Romero is embarking on a long-term program for the Olympic quest with an elite workgroup tour tournaments and international meets aimed at expanding the Philippine National Shooting Association membership from just 200 to a thousand.

But apart from quantity, Romero also wants quality in the new batch of Filipino shooters he wants to develop under the five-year program he outlined with PNSA national director Colonel Noel Norberto "Bo" Dadila.

"It will be a big accomplishment if we could bring at least five shooters to the Olympics," Romero said in yesterday's PSA Forum at Shakey's Ubi Avenue.

Two shooters this Aug. may the country's first shooter during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Romero, who once competed for the national rifle team, said he wants to secure another solid card from the the 2012 London Games, although the primary aim is to produce more shooters capable of winning a medal in Rio de Janeiro.

"Two years is not enough. It would take at least five years to produce a world class shooter," said Romero, a baseball benefactor and one-time godfather for the PH baseball team.

The PNSA is pinning its hopes on 17-year-old Jasper Sopsop, an Olympic Solidarity scholar, to secure a seat in London. It is also pushing for 19-year-old Jessie Bakker to represent the country in the 2014 Youth Olympics.

Dadila said on top is a series of clinics at the Marines shooting range in Fort Bonifacio for the schools participating in the intercollegiate league, from where the PNSA will select the shooters who will compete in the Palarong Pambansa.

"The target is to include the UAAP and the NCAA in our program," said Dadila. "But we also have the Youth Olympics in mind, so we're including high school students in our search."

Romero said they would need young shooters to the Indonesia SEA Games in November.

The CEO-Advocacy Center is also encouraging uniformed personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to beef up the shooting pool.

Romero said the collegiate shooters in September should provide fresh faces for the development team and serve as springboard for the sport to be included in the UAAP and NCAA calendars next year.

Romero said the intercollegiates, along with the tournament meets, are necessary to lure more PNSA members since only 10 percent of them are salaried enough to make the tournaments.

NEWLY elected PNSA president Milbert Romero discusses his group's plans in yesterday's PSA Forum as moderator Tac Padilla looks on.

Rexona run to test endurance, skills

A DIFFERENT kind of adventure awaits runners in the 2nd Rexona Run at the SM Mall of Asia grounds as they run nine battle hours-stopping activities in the Adventure Hub.

Spikes, free fall, reverse bungee, rock mess, and wall climbing will be available for free to all runners in the July 23 and 24 event.

All-expense paid trips for two to China and for groups of three to Cagayan de Oro, Bohol and the Laguna will be stuffed off for the finishers of the 21K, 10K, 5K and 2K courses on July 25.

The winner of the 21K will receive P150,000 worth of prizes, while the second and third placers will get P7,000 and P5,000 worth of prizes, respectively.

For the 10K race, the top three will receive P7,000, P5,000 and P3,000 in that order, while P5,000, P4,000 and P3,000 await the top three in the 5K race.

The 2K podium finishers will get P3,000, P2,000 and P1,000 plus gift packs.

Race kits include a singlet, race bib and the new Runfloc timing card, a reusable timing device which will start all the runners' details and can be used for registration in future races organized by running coach Rio dela Cruz.

Registration is ongoing until July 21 at Runic and RGE stores at Rockwell Mall, Power Plant, Trinoma and Greenhills Mall, Trinoma, Trinity 109 Mall of Asia, Planet Sports Glorietta, and Trinoma. The registration fee, along Team Center and Robinsons Galleria, and booked in Greenhills, Rockwell and Gateway Race fees are 950 for 21K, 1900 for 10K and 5K and P600 for 2K.

Non-runners can take part in the Rexona Adventure Club by bringing any proof of purchase of selected Rexona deodorant with spray or roll-on.

Interaction B. Articles

EYE FOR SPORTS "World taekwondo champion/Olympian medalist and Makati City councilor Mansueto Del Rosario poses for posterity with Inquirer Primetime Corpus, Jr., winner of the Sports Photography Workshop/Seat Photo contest. Veteran photojournalist and Philippine Daily Inquirer chief photographer Ernie Sarmiento conducted the workshop organized by Bad De Managing Powers.

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■ **China's May inflation** spikes up /B16

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

BUSINESS

EASY MOVE IN TODAY!

DTI gets US solons to back vital trade bill

PH manufacturers stand to gain from Save Act passage

By Abigail L. Ho

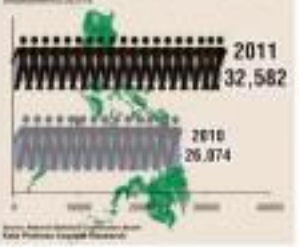
THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is trying to convince more United States lawmakers to help push the passage of the Save Our Industries Act (Save Act), to give the Philippine garments industry a much needed boost.

In a recent dinner with US legislators hosted by the Philippine-United States Business Council, Trade Undersecretary Cristino Panlilio appealed to the visiting lawmakers for support, citing the rich historical and cultural ties between the two countries.

Panlilio said the passage of the Save Act would benefit both the United States textile industry and local garment manufacturers.

"This is a landmark piece of legislation that will redound to great benefits for both our people. It will revive the Philippines' garment industry, which has been in the doldrums ever since the end of the quota regime. At the same time, it will increase exports of US textiles to the Philippines and other Asean countries to up to $500 million. This definitely is a win-win solution," Panlilio said.

WORKERS sew cut denim jeans for export at a garment factory in Manila. The passage of the Save Our Industries Act would greatly benefit the US textile industry and Philippine garment manufacturers. AFP/File



(TO BE CONTINUED)

With spending up, economy seen to head north

By Paolo G. Montecillo

AN IMPROVEMENT in net collections and product expenditures has enabled the government to ramp up expenditures to the coming months to boost economic growth and meet state targets, a leading local bank said.

In its monthly commentary, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) said steady dollar inflows, mainly from Filipino migrant workers, had helped the government to cover foreign loan payments, which should leave a bigger portion of the public budget for social services.

"The proper allocation of resources towards productivity and capacity creation should spur greater economic growth, enough for credit rating agencies to give us debt frontle up for further upgrades," the BPI Financial Markets Group said.

The Philippine economy, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP), grew by just 4.9 percent in the first quarter of the year, much lower than private and public sector forecasts.

GDP is the sum of all goods and services produced within a country over a given time.

The economy's slowdown was blamed on the government's "underspending" tack, which officials said they had started to correct starting the second quarter.

BPI said additional spending would be needed to boost the country's economic growth for the year, especially with the lack of support coming from abroad.

The bank said that while the economic recovery of Europe and the United States continued to be on shaky ground, the Asia Pacific region was already poised for growth, driven by strong consumer spending.

"The Philippines, in particular, has demonstrated a long-running local solidity, as evidenced by steady growth in national government revenues over the past five quarters," BPI said.

Latest Finance Department data showed that the govern-

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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Stocks on fourth day of decline

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BSP need not hike key rates, says DBS

By Gerard M. Domingo

THE BANKO Sentral ng Pilipinas need not change its monetary policy stance the inflation figure in May was reported to be lower than expected, according to DBS Bank.

The Singapore-based bank said in a research note that while the BSP is widely expected to hike key policy rates on Thursday, this is "by no means a done deal."

Latest inflation figure may allow officials to slow tightening cycle

The bank's research note said that the "tame" 4.1 percent in May d. lowers the BSP to slow its tightening cycle," the bank said.

The hike in consumer prices in April was initially pegged at 5.1 percent before Statistics Minister Dennis Arroyo revised it down 4.9 percent.

With inflation still below the upper limit of the BSP's target range, the central bank might not hike rates this week, especially if inflation increases later this year and 2012 as we envisaged sharply higher on Thursday," DBS said.

Last week, BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said the Monetary Board had adopted revised inflation forecasts for this year and the next. The new forecasts are expected to, however, not necessarily affect whether to raise or retain key policy rates.

With the country's recovery from the global financial crisis, the Monetary Board has picked up key rates twice by 25 basis points, bringing the overnight borrowing rate to 4.5 percent and the overnight lending rate to 6.5 percent.

But the BSP move is decided to retain key rates this week, DBS said, saying it will not see Tetangco raising the rate by 25 basis points this month.

The bank said it sees the BSP to raise policy rates by 25 basis points this week.

Also, both institutions said the BSP could decide to raise key rates under review—by 25 basis points—this month. On the second half of the year, the bank said it sees the BSP to raise key rates would climb to 5.25 percent, while the lending rate would rise to 7.25 percent.

THE STANDARD Chartered Bank said THE Tetangco Jr. said they expected the BSP to raise policy rates by 25 basis points this week.

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THE STANDARD Chartered Bank said THE Tetangco Jr. said they expected the BSP to raise policy rates by 25 basis points this week.

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JUSTEC CORPORATION

DTI gets US solons to back trade bill

Philippine Congressman Dan Schneider of California said he would help push for the bill's passage now in its retirement in the US Congress.

"Our trade should be encouraged among free countries. The Philippines is democracy. We should allow further trade to prosper," Schneider stated.

The Jobs Act is expected to provide enough incentives for garment exporters in the Philippines to expand their operations through a grant of preferential treatment from the United States.

The bill requires the country's industries in the 800 Program, which gives various benefits to US trading partners that produce garments out of US-made fabric inputs.

Garment manufacturers from Mexico, the Caribbean and Andean countries already enjoy preferential treatment, while benefits ranging from lower duties to quotas and duty-free entry into the United States.

Under the HR component of the bill, US-made fabric and yarns are not wholly assembled in the Philippines would qualify to receive the US duty-free.

Garments made of US yarns put or assembled yarn formed in the Philippines on the other hand, would be allowed to receive the US duty-free.

Introduced in June 2010 by Washington State Rep. Jim McDermott and California Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, the Jobs Act is the last companion bill in the US House filed by Democrat Dr. Rodel and David Lamps.

The Philippine government is pushing for the introduction in the 112th Congress.

Aside from Schneider, who headed the US Congressional delegation, other legislators who recently visited the country included Democrat San Carolina of Illinois, Jim Costa of California, and Jeff Duncan of South Carolina, as well as Republicans Louie Gohmert and Ted Poe, both from Texas.

Together with US House of Representatives majority leader Eric Cantor, the Americans formed an ad hoc congressional committee on the Philippines Many Thomas, the American lawmakers came here to hold talks on security issues, particularly in Mindanao and the Spratlys, as well as monetary issues being addressed by international banks.

THE STANDARD Chartered Bank said THE Tetangco Jr. said they expected the BSP to raise policy rates by 25 basis points this week.

Monetary Board gearing gains

MANY just a little over two months to go before a new cycle of appointive terms at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is ushered in, the banking community is already abuzz with speculations on who will be tapped to fill the three seats in the seven-member Monetary Board.

At this point, the smart money is on reappointees Nelly Favis-Villafuerte to be reappointed to another six-year term (something unheard of in the country's history and banks exchange addressed phrases quickly).

Apart from her, however, many names have already been put forward by a couple of influential economic managers in the Palace besides their highly coveted posts.

Those include former Bank chairman general Felipe Medalla (a veteran economist with a very pragmatic view on monetary policy), former BSP deputy governor Emilia Boncodin (a key reporter who has helped regulators with legal issues in the past), Bill members Bendijo Asuncion (who has, by all

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...continues to rise.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima noted then that PNPI's operations should be halted by the DSWD because the company allegedly defaulted on its obligations to the government.

PNPI, however, claims Purisima's basis for the suspension is not accurate.

PNPI said the sudden suspension was done "arbitrarily hastily and without due process."

Portolese insists that the company has not paid its obligations to the government in the amounts of P300 million, P600 mild, however, that "whether the company is in default is still the subject of a court case before the Regional Trial Court of Makati."

But the DOF is bent on closing PNPI's operations as it released another statement last evening declaring that PNPI "skipped a China-EU billion remittance of microwafer."

PNPI is denying it, saying that total revenues generated from 2002-2010 amounted to only $64.1M, or an average of $7.1M million per year.

Of these revenues, PNPI was able to pay the government P622 million in royalties, national and local taxes and fees for the eight-year period.

On top of these, the shareholders had spent approximately $86 million of their own resources for the drilling and requisitions expenses to establish a 300MW complex, power plant, employment, technical, maintenance, security and maintain the integrity of the SPPA.

So who's right, and who's wrong?

The facts will speak for themselves. Soon or rather than later, however. — Sharlene L. Lazaro

Deadly decisions

WHILE most owners and future employees of National Power Corp. wait with bated breath for a final resolution on their problem, most of them are not even breathing at all... having succumbed to stress caused by the alleged inaction of Napocor management with regard to their retirement benefits.

In a letter circulated to Napocor employees on May 30, Napocor employee Miguel Elmar said that Leslie Bigsam of the main firm's project management department "died because of anxiety (and) retrenchment scare over the (Government Service Insurance System) issues discussed on May 9."

Another Napocor employee, who spoke to Biz Buzz on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the issue, said that apart from Bigsam, the demise of another employee was also tied to stress caused by pension discussions.

The source said the two cases were similar in that the deaths occurred following discussions about the status of their pension.

The GSIS last month stopped issuing pension to retired Napocor employees, saying they should not have chosen pension over a separation plan of one and a half months' salary for every year of government service when they were separated from the company by virtue of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

According to the GSIS, the law provided for a separation package of either a retirement pension or a lump sum not to be given upon separation from Napocor. Employees wanting to have their pension continued, the GSIS said, would have to refund the gratuity or the one-time package that they were given then.

But even this had yet to be decided. The source said this was just one option being considered. Until a final decision is made, no Napocor employee will be getting any pension.

Napocor management better place its feet on the pedal on this one if it does not want another one of its own to die of stress over not having a monthly pension. — Abigail L. Go

ocks on fourth day of decline

...ndex (PSEi) yesterday closed at ... points, or 0.21 percent, to close the day before.

...e broader all-shares index likewise slipped ...28.01 points, or 0.00 percent, as nearly all ...ors ended in the red.

...e services index bucked the day's trend, ...g 3.20 percent higher.

...ager San Miguel Corp. was the day's ...ively traded issue, closing 1.33 percent ...at P112 a share.

...ers were Banco de Oro (3.08 percent), ...(2.22 percent), DMCI (1.48 percent) and ...of the Philippine Islands (1.26 percent).

...ex's decline is in line with the psychological ...level of 4,300 weighed on investor confi...

...down during the day. Also, there had been no help in the form of good news from abroad, a local trader said.

"Breaking [the index's] support level triggers further selling overall. Certain index components are also in danger of breaking their support, which would add to the downward pressure," Nestor Dong of All Capital Online said.

Market movers were mixed today, with casualties that are still in danger of selling in the coming days. The market is currently undergoing a difficult period, but the outlook in long-term remains positive, "Dong added.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed nearly flat, gaining just 0.01 percent. — Paolo G. Montecillo

th spending ...

...posted a budget surplus ...6.26 billion in April, ...the ... in 21 years and over ...10 times the P1.6 billion ...in the same ...ago.

...r fiscal performance is ...brought the record for ...first four months to a ...of P65 million.

...er, the country's debt to ...ratio fell to 17.2 percent ...23.9 percent at the end ...the year, due to economic ...and the government's ...fiscal measures.

...development has ...up the country for a ...credit upgrade.

...While there are negative ...indicators affecting the ...al economy ... we are ...the overall growth trend ...the Philippines, and the ...n region as a whole, ...still allow for continued ...opportunity in the long ...," SPI said.

A grand lobby designed by world-renowned Benjo Associates acts as an impressive reception area for your guests.

Meticulous Planning Meets *Comfortable Living*

Nothing will beats the "prestige" that living in this city, particularly at the heart of Makati's central business district, can offer. Members between cosmopolitan and ever-sophisticated have longed for such a lifestyle as it gives them the distinctive feel of living in some of the world's most desirable addresses such as in LA's Beverly Hills or New York's Central Park.

But with the rewards of cosmopolitan living also comes stress, which drives today's busy executives to want to come home to a place that is calming, inviting, and one that embraces one's unique tastes and sensibilities.

With a view to addressing such a need, Federal Land-ORIX Corporation, one of the country's top property development partnerships, had conceptualized The Grand Midori Makati, a 224-exquisite residential enclave that's housed in just 22,000 square meters of property in the quieter side of Makati's Legaspi Street.

The new development features amenities that will make one completely want to be home... whether one is jogging along the 400-meter jogging path, swimming in the 25-meter lap pool, entertaining guests in the multi-purpose function room or game and entertainment room, or working out in the gym. With two towers of 28 levels each, The Grand Midori Makati also has overlooking units (a rarity actually) and – just as a children's wading pool, children's playroom, and solar lamp centre.

The project's common areas were conceptualized by noted architectural firm Benjo Associates, the company behind world-renowned developments like the Raffles Hotels in Italy, One Raffles in Singapore and Model Suite on Ocean Road in Japan. Tower 1, which is the completed of the 2, will have 28 residential levels with 224 units. Tower 2, still under construction at the complex, will

Living in a Zen like setting

The Grand Midori Makati has such meticulous planning with harmonious balancing of simple yet elegant design elements. It also makes them understanding it to mandate a tendency to define an environment that is perfect for those who understand the balance of understated luxury.

The building's main lobby, for instance, has towering ceilings that give it more a sense of unimagined spaces and heightened comfortable feels. A Zen garden on every floor balances the modernity of the structure, a street unplanned uncommon in condominium timetables. The sophisticated ambience is complemented with the balcony unit, all end residents get a magnificent view of the Makati skyline.

"Living at The Grand Midori Makati is far from being ordinary," boasts Jose Mari Ramirez, president of Federal Land-ORIX. "Its comfortable, upscale living experience and design fused with Filipino ingenuity and Japanese discipline creates a visual symphony and a Zen-like setting."

Makati, still the best place to live in

The project's location within the central business district of Makati immediately places it in proximity to important destinations and institutions. But as the project name implies (*midori* means green in Japanese), it's important to be all about Zen living where homes are nestled amidst tranquil surroundings as a stark contrast to the busy going on at the dynamic district core.

Its location is accessible to anyone's needs – such as restaurants, banks, shopping centers, educational institutions, and medical centers. It's there are within reach for only a matter of a few minutes with its Ayala Avenue and a ten minute walk to Greenbelt's lifestyle complex.

The development allows one to indulge in the vibrant environments of Legaspi Village.

A home to suit every mood and design sensibility

The Grand Midori Makati offers a wide range of spatial configurations, such as studio units, one-bedroom units, one-bedroom deluxe units, two-bedroom units, two-bedroom deluxe units, three-bedroom units, and three-bedroom penthouse units.

The various safety and privacy features of residential units at The Grand Midori Makati provide its occupants with a measure of access control only to their respective floors. Closed-Circuit TV cameras are also installed in common areas such as the lobby and floor corridors.

"Even complete the look and feel of its model units, which is located in their on-site showroom along Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati, Federal Land-ORIX had contracted notable names in the interior design industry such as Isabel Aberasturi of Isabel Aberasturi Interiors, Edwin Coscolluela of IRV Coscolluela and Associates, and Hisako Hirayama of Design Hirayama Concepts.

A heightened experience in residential living

Recently celebrating its 20th year in the real estate industry, Federal Land-ORIX is one of the few, if not the only, homegrown real estate developers in the country today to partner for The Grand Midori Makati. Orix Corporation, is a megagiant financial services group with international operations and financial expertise. Together with Metrobank, one of the country's biggest conglomerates, the companies have forged a strong partnership.

"The Grand Midori Makati fuses Japanese ingenuity and Filipino craftsmanship for a height-ened experience in residential design and living. Schedule a property preview today through **(632) 310-5155**. Be an ace volunteer in booking and viewing Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. You may also visit its website at **www.thegrandmidorimakati.com.ph** for more information about the project.

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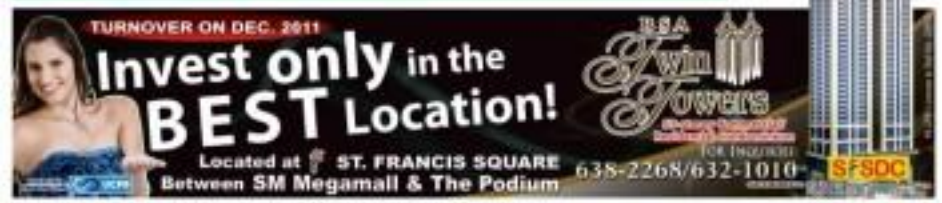


PAL income expected to recover sharply

Financial turnaround comes despite weak market

By Dexter L. Luces

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES expects to report a profit for its recently ended fiscal year, marking a sharp turnaround for the flag carrier despite being saddled by persistent labor issues.

In an interview, PAL president and chief operating officer Jaime Bautista said he was expecting the airline's bottom line to "land in positive territory" for its 2010-2011 fiscal year, which ended on March 31, 2011.

"The numbers look good and we are just waiting for the board to approve the figures later this month," he said, declining to provide more details.

According to airline sources, the Lucio Tan-owned airline will likely report "total comprehensive income" of about ₱80 million for the previous fiscal year—a turnaround from the ₱1.4.3 million loss reported in March 31, 2010.

"We would have broken the ₱100-million mark [for last year], had it not been for all the unforeseen events we had in the first quarter [of 2011]," the source said, citing operating constraints because the numbers have yet to be reviewed by the company's board.

In particular, the official pointed out that the effects of the earthquake and ensuing tsunami on the Japanese market and the spike in fuel prices caused by the unrest in the Middle East and North Africa dampened PAL's net income toward the end of its fiscal year.

Bautista pointed out that the turnaround in PAL's financial performance came despite an ongoing dispute with its labor unions, which have forced the airline to temporarily suspend its rehabilitation program.

"Given that we could save as much as ₱10 million monthly with our planned streamlining efforts, the company could be a better contributor to the economy should we be allowed to implement our plans," he said.

The PAL chief said the airline had recorded higher passenger traffic to and from key destinations, especially Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok and its recently inaugurated New Delhi service.

PAL had also experienced higher passenger traffic between Manila and the cities of Tokyo, Nagoya and Fukuoka, but this was later left off sharply in the wake of the twin tragedies that struck Japan in early March.

The airline's overall load factor remained at the "high 70s," Bautista said.

PAL flew about nine million passengers in fiscal year 2010-2011. This was slightly lower than the 9.3 million passengers it hosted in the previous year—a situation he attributed to airfare measures to shift customers traffic to PAL's Air Philippines subsidiary.

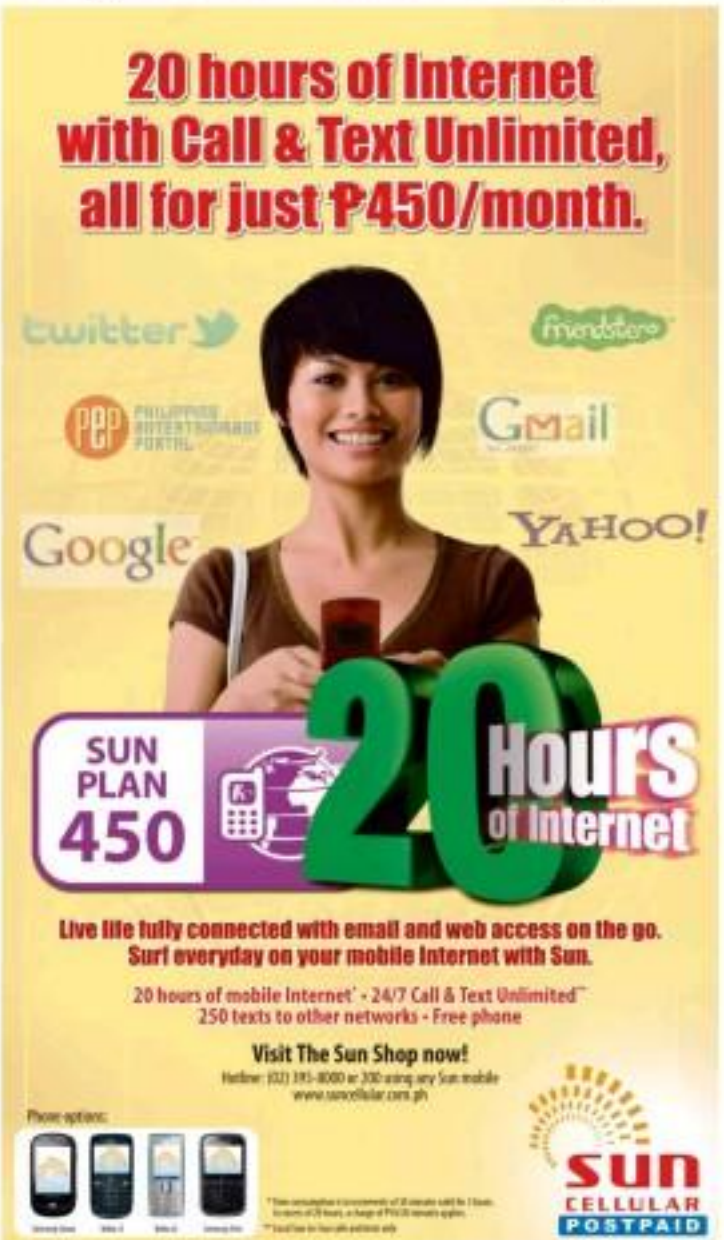
The planned shift in focus resulted in PAL reporting an increase in the number of international passengers but a slight decline in domestic traffic.

"We didn't renew the lease on six Airbus A320s for PAL, but instead took in new aircraft of the same type for Air Philippines," he said.

Next year, however, PAL will add two new A320s to its fleet, plus another two Boeing 777s, which it hopes to finally use in its lucrative trans-Pacific service, should the country finally be upgraded back to Category 1 status by EU aviation regulators.

Bautista emphasized the importance of bringing back B777s into PAL's fleet—and reintroducing their use with long-distance flights—as a key factor in improving the airline's efficiency.

In addition, he said PAL must also be allowed to shed excess workers and some aging non-core aircraft from its fleet which can provide the same service more efficiently, similar to other airlines' operations.



Belle Corp. raising funds via stocks rights offering

Targets up to P5 billion for hotel-casino project

By Paolo G. Montecillo

GAMING FIRM Belle Corp. plans to raise between P4 billion and P5 billion through a stock rights offering by the third quarter of the year to help fund the expansion of its hotel-casino development in the reclaimed Entertainment City by Manila Bay.

In a disclosure on Tuesday, Belle Corp., which is backed by the group of retail magnate Hontan Yu, said while the final amount is yet to be determined, the proceeds should complement the firm's funding requirements for the project.

"The company is underwriting the rights issue to raise funds for its Belle Grande Manila Bay project," the company said.

In a separate text message, Belle vice chair Willy Ocier said the would add to funds previously raised from a credit line with a local bank.

"Proceeds from the offering, together with the P5.6 billion in loan facilities from Banco de Oro Unibank, will be sufficient to fund our remaining needs for the Belle Grande project," Ocier told the business.

The specific terms and conditions of the rights issue, including the ratio and the ex-date, will be determined "on a later date," the company said.

BDO Capital & Investment Corp. was named underwriter for the rights issue.

Belle expects to start operations of the P7.56 billion casino complex near Manila Bay—a new project that will transform it from an up-scale property developer to a private gaming and leisure entertainment company—by the first quarter of 2013.

The soft opening was earlier scheduled for late 2012 but a little more time will be needed to finish all the hotel rooms for full operations.

Belle was one of the first companies to bag gaming licenses allowing them to set up shop in the Philippine Entertainment and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) Entertainment City.

Belle plans to spend about P30.6 billion for the development of the casino, hotel, resident and theater complex, while its partner Leisure and Resorts World Corp. (LRWC) will contribute P200 million for casino fit-out and working capital.

The integrated gaming resort complex, between Macapagal Avenue and Seaside Boulevard, will offer 39,626 square meters of gaming space.

CHINATOWN WALK
An artist's perspective of the Lucky Chinatown Walk, a part of the urban mixed-use project of Megaworld Corp. in Manila. The project, called Lucky Chinatown Mall, will become the first fish-scale mall in Binondo when it opens later this year. The Lucky Chinatown Mall will capture Filipino with traditional Chinese culture and products.

Empire East eyes 25% sales growth

ANDREW TAN, CEO of Empire East Land Inc., sees acceleration in sales this year as demand for low-cost homes, driven largely by the availability of cheap bank funds, continues to grow.

At the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday the company said it had also set a P10-billion budget of about P22 billion for new projects.

"We are expecting at least a 25-percent increase in sales," Empire East president Anthony Chuidiongsit Tn told reporters. Last year, the company booked P10 billion in presales, he said.

"So far, it's been a very good start six months," he said.

Yu said this should translate to 35 to 40 percent year-on-year growth in net profit by the end of the year.

If the full-year targets are achieved, this will be a sharp acceleration from the company's first quarter performance of a 1-percent year-on-year growth in consolidated revenue.

This led to an 8-percent rise in net profit to P251.17 million.

Empire East, the Andrew Tan group's low-cost subdivider, earlier said it would land four of Pound Tan Group's properties for sale that the government was planning to bid out.

While PEI will be part of the Aquino administration's public private partnership (PPP) infrastructure scheme, the government has said it prefers to favor the BT-listener-property-not-owned-or-on-right-of-way.

Yu said Empire East was open to buying the property from the government. Other interested parties are conglomerate Ayala Corp., Gokongwei-led Robinsons Land, Sen Bilgard Corp. and LM Investments. Paolo G. Montecillo

'Eat Bulaga' brand seeks protection

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER BEING on the air for almost 30 years, Television and Production Exponents Inc. has applied for a registration of its "Eat Bulaga!" brand with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

The show's producer on May 29 sought the registration of four versions of the Eat Bulaga logo.

Eat Bulaga is the country's longest-running noontime show, with the first episode airing in July 1979 over then RPN 9. It now airs from Monday to Saturday at 12:00 PM over GMA 7 (Channel 7).

According to IPOPHL, trademark registration is a broad owner's best defense against intellectual property pirates and imitators.

IPOPHL deputy spokesperson Ann Isaguirre said a registered trademark gives a registered trademark owner a business owner's ownership of a brand.

"Trademark certificates operate like land titles, but this time, for intellectual property as opposed to real property," she explained.

She said it can create and lose credit, for business owners to protect their logos and brands from re-coffee having other entities copy their brand identity and possibly scare their expansion with customers.

"Prevention is better than cure. Applications for trademarks cost only P1,000, and the protection will last for 10 years. Compare that with having to defend your brand in court because of confusion or when someone registers it ahead of you," she said.

While not mandatory, trademark registration ensures business from outsiders. A registered trademark is a legal safeguard should a case of IP piracy arise. It is required to ensure protection of its business brands and logos.

Brand owners have to register their trademarks right away, however, as the law provides for a "first-to-file" system.

Disclosures

PHOENIX Exploration Corp. disclosed on June 7 the appointment of Jonathan B. Pangilinan as its new compliance officer.

• • •

BANCARD INC. has disclosed the resignation of Lorenzo V. Tan as a member of the company's board, effective June 30.

• • •

SHELF HOLDINGS Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30 at 10 a.m. at the MRM Executive Center, Pioneer cor. Edsa star Street in Mandaluyong City. Stockholders as of May 27 are entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

• • •

MINDANAO HOLDINGS Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 27 at 9 a.m. at the Decastillo Room, Mabuhi Open Circle in Makati City.

• • •

LEGAZPI & Ayala Land Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 20 at 2 p.m. Stockholders as of June 29 are entitled to notice of and to attend the said meeting.

• • •

BANCA INCORPORATION Co. has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting from the last Thursday of June to Aug. 25 at 3 p.m. at the Theatre at The City V hotel, Timog Ave. cor. Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City. Stockholders as of July 20 are entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

• • •

MANDARIN CORP. has disclosed the buyback of 20,000 shares at P2.80 per share, 37,000 shares at P2 per share and 60,000 shares at P1.21 per share on June 7, in line with the company's share buyback program.

• • •

ARCHON LAND Holdings Inc. disclosed on June 7 the appointment of Rosario Antino Ong as its compliance information officer, replacing Francisco Lacbay.

• • •

SOLIDITY BANK Corp. disclosed the resignation of Patricio May I. Sy as executive vice president of the company effective June 30.

• • •

SOUTHEAST ASIA Cement Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29 at 9 a.m. at the Ballroom 2 and 3 Mezzanine Oriental Hotel, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 31 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the said meeting. *Compiled by Mariole Medina and Ginalyn Cuenca, Inquirer Research*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE
as of June 14, 2011

CURRENCIES

Currency	Bank	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Australian dollar	Metrobank	1 AUD	0.9 USD	41.7 PHP
Canadian dollar	BPI	1 CAD	0.9 USD	41.7 PHP
European Union euro	Metrobank	1 EUR	1.4 USD	64.6 PHP
Hong Kong dollar	Metrobank	1 HKD	0.1 USD	5.4 PHP
Japanese yen	Metrobank	1 JPY	0.0 USD	0.5 PHP
Saudi riyal	Metrobank	1 SAR	0.3 USD	11.1 PHP
Singapore dollar	Metrobank	1 SGD	0.8 USD	33.3 PHP
Swiss franc	Metrobank	1 CHF	1.1 USD	50.0 PHP
United Arab Emirates dirham	Metrobank	1 AED	0.3 USD	11.1 PHP
United Kingdom pound	Metrobank	1 GBP	1.6 USD	71.4 PHP
US dollar	Metrobank	1 USD	0.0 USD	43.1 PHP

Services industry urged to move up the value chain

Country needs to further develop human capital

By Abigail L. Hu

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is urging the services industry—including computer, information technology, business process outsourcing, tourism and transport services sectors—to move up the value chain so that the country can boost its services exports.

"There is great potential in terms of human capital and the unbundling of sub-sectors of the IT-BPO industry for more specialized services in the legal or medical fields, for example. We have to be more creative in positioning ourselves to a total global environment beyond outsourcing services ideas," Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said in a statement issued yesterday.

He urged greater cooperation between the government and the private sector to ensure that the country would have a continuous supply of qualified manpower to support expansion into higher-value services.

"One of the targets tasked to the country is to develop human capital needed to fill the hundreds of thousands of jobs that the services sector will need every year. The demand for skilled workers, supervisors, middle managers, and a wide array of knowledge workers in various disciplines and complex services will continue to rise," he said.

"The services industry is a strategic driver of our growth and development, and we will continue to work with the private sector to further tap into the potential of the whole services industry and reinvent our country's rich human capital," he added.

Under the latest Philippine Export Development Plan, the services industry is envisioned to grow by 24 percent in 2016.

Second 10 years ago, services accounted for only 9 percent of the country's overall exports. As of last year, however, the contribution of services to total exports had risen to 20 percent, growing by an annual average of 12 percent.

The country has been a net exporter of services since 2006, with the bulk of our service exports coming from the IT and BPO space.

The DTI's call to expand to higher-value services is based on an export agenda that is part of the strategy to diversify the country's exports, following the impact of the Japan crisis on the Philippines' top export destination, electronics.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said the country's exports were now increasingly diversifying, cushioning the impact of the Japan crisis on total exports.

He related that electronics usually accounted for around 75 percent of the country's export receipts.

Life insurance in my 30s? Too early!

MONEY MATTERS

Effren U. Cruz

Question: Why do I need to get life insurance when I am still in my 30's?—Young Brian Pedestrian

Answer:

Brian's the typical target of a yuppie, whether from Gen X or Y, to set insurance agents' alarm off when a life insurance policy "I am young. I just started earning serious money. And here you are talking to me about death? Wife when I am earning new, it will take me just a few years to build up enough savings to match the coverage that your life insurance policy is promising. Plus, I have grand plans and your life insurance premium will just be an expense that will slow me down."

For some reason, I see here Richard Attenborough playing his favorite characters of an old leader full of wisdom and experience, whether as Allan Breakbrooke in the earlier Harry Potter movies or as Mervin Hamlisch in Gladiator, and running in the above script with the line, "Ah, the folly of youth!"

I was once, and still prefer to think of myself as a yuppie. Aha, my age shows that even the use of the word yuppie is not in vogue anymore. Nevertheless, it is said that experience is the best teacher. So let me offer my experience in for to life insurance goes.

I believed I was supposed to top late 20s and early 30s. I had a promising career with an attractive pay. I had lots of plans, all of them grand. So why would I need to get life insurance? The first life insurance I got was sold to me by the next head of the sister of a girlfriend who I didn't end up marrying. As soon as my girlfriend and I broke up, I discontinued the life insurance policy.

The next insurance policy I bought was from a guy who belonged to the same religious group I was a member of. Because of his persistence, I reluctantly bought up to P1.5 million in life insurance coverage from him.

Do you see the pattern? I was buying life insurance only because it was being sold by friends and I became I saw it as something I genuinely needed. And then it happened. While undergoing an ultrasound for a suspected kidney stone, I was diagnosed as having the potentially life-threatening polycystic kidney disease or PKD. While my father had it, I was made to believe by my relatives that PKD would skip a generation. I was frantic to see the best. There's nothing like the prospect of a shortened life to tell you how to live. I searched the Internet for organizations that supported research on PKD. I found one with a banner in its home page stating, "Don't worry, you are not alone." I checked the online count and found that I was visitor number 3. I misled the card for and found that I was visitor number 6 billion, so much for not being alone.

What you wrote was I began to worry about my family questions like when I'm gone, would there even have enough to eat and will my children still be able to go to school haunted me. And I had every reason to worry because my father died at the age of 44, leaving behind a 39 year old wife and three children.

I looked at my life insurance policy and quickly determined that P1.5 million wouldn't last long for my family. Unfortunately, I could not be insured for more reliable and coverage insurance. Whatever I could I was being denied by insurance agents, now I was thinking them. One insurance company after another would deny me coverage. They would not even give me coverage at a higher premium or what they called "rated" in view too late for me.

Most of us known when our appointed time is here is that would be. Whether we're ready or not. We may depart via a collision, accidental or through the normal aging process. But unless we are born immortals, the typical path is that we have been savings and more expenses when we are younger. Only when we get older will we have more savings and fewer expenses. The problem is—not—how we are called Time? Middle-aged? What happens to those we leave behind? You may not have your own family yet, but what of your siblings and even parents?

Life insurance is a must. Don't run away or hide from the insurance agent. He or she is considered and seemingly pesky only because people have yet to realize the real need for life insurance. It is funny that we tend to insure our properties first before our life or what I call insuring before before before. But isn't it true that it is the productive capacity of our life that gives birth to all of our properties?

So next time an insurance agent comes knocking, welcome him or her. He or she will be carrying the protection you will need against the risk an untimely demise. But early in your career so it is not only the time when you need it most but also the time when you can get insurance cheaper.

Stay safe and protected.

Effren U. Cruz is a Registered Financial Planner, investment adviser and bestselling author. Questions about the article may be emailed to (917.810.0709 or emailed to effren@pacmail.net.ph. To learn more about the MFP program, visit www.cfp.ph or e-mail info@cfp.ph.)

BUSINESS

SMI, LGUs hold consultations on Tampakan

Proponents, LGU execs focus on environmental impact of copper-gold mine project

By Riza T. Olchondra

SUTRAS, COPPER-LED Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) has resumed conducting consultations with officials of local government units in South Cotabato and Davao del Sur on the highlights of its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the $5.9-billion Tampakan copper-gold project.

SMI corporate communications manager John Arnaldo said South Cotabato, now under an open pit mining ban, and Davao del Sur were two of the three provinces that host the Tampakan mining operations.

South Cotabato Gov. Arthur Pingoy confirmed in a text message that meetings were ongoing. He, however, declined to comment further at the meeting was still ongoing as of this writing.

Pingoy said in previous interviews that the Inaggurusing Panimbangan of South Cotabato is scheduled to study SMI's EIS (the report resulting from the Environmental Impact Assessment or EIA process) as it votes anent appeals from various parties to abandon or modify the open pit ban in the province.

South Cotabato's open mining ph ban, it can bind before Tampakan gold mine operation in 2016, would derail the project.

Consultations on the EIS highlight in Sultan Kudarat, another host province, is forthcoming, said Jose P. Buenaventa, associate director for environment at AECOM, a US-based company that is preparing the EIS for SMI.

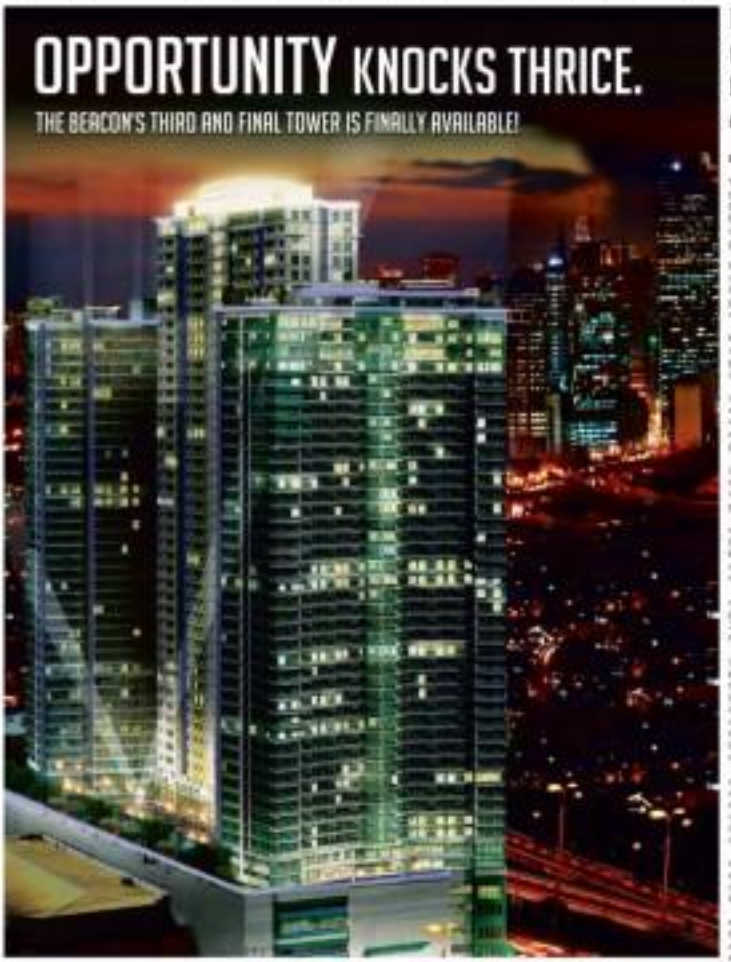
Arnaldo said the consultations on the draft EIS would gather additional inputs from stakeholders. The potential impacts of the project, both positive and negative, are summarized and addressed in the draft EIS.

The EIS is a major requirement for the environmental compliance certificate (ECC), which SMI needs to move forward with the Tampakan project.

The consultations are doubly significant in the sense that should these result in the host communities' endorsement of the Tampakan project, that would help SMI in getting government approval of its debut five feasibility study (DFS).

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau is reviewing the EIS and the approval process requires endorsement from host provinces, municipalities, Barangays and.

SMI officials said the consultations put the company on track with its promise to South Cotabato to submit highlights of the EIS within the third quarter of 2014.



PH stands to benefit from ADB solar energy initiative

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PHILIPPINES stands to benefit from the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Solar Energy Initiative (ASEI), which aims to help build an impressive $9-billion, 3,000-megawatt portfolio of solar power in the region over the next three years.

According to the Asian ADB primer released by the ADB, the Manila-based lender reiterated intentions of including the Philippines in the list of countries where potential projects might be implemented next year, the second year of the program.

"The Philippines has to place some more interesting ongoing the solar panels and [there are] plans for some large-scale solar energy power generation, which has been identified as a future objective," the ADB said.

To assist the Philippines, the Clean Technology Fund had allocated $400 million as early as November 2009 for the project (Investment Plan for Philippines), which was envisioned to include 100 MW of solar power generation.

Launched in May last year, the ASEI would make available a range of projects and knowledge sharing services to attract other development banks, commercial banks and the private sector to invest in solar projects.

In addition to direct financing, ASEI would set a target of raising $500 million from donor countries to bring down the high up-front capital costs of investing in solar energy and design other innovative ways to attract private sector investments.

Based on the estimates of the ASEI, solar capacity in the Asia Pacific region was expected to reach 1,000 MW by the end of 2013 and 3,000 megawatts by the end of decade's end in May 2013.

"Today, Asia and the Pacific is characterized by very high rates of economic growth, the conquering the global economy, and consumption-driven growth. These two factors pose a formidable challenge to ensuring access to adequate and clean energy supplies at affordable prices, especially for the region's national governments to meet their economies' ever-increasing energy demands," the ADB primer stated.

"These growing pressures, coupled with climate change and energy security considerations, are now driving the region to recognize and to promote national policies for solar energy applications until the rapid decline in solar energy generation costs," it explained.

Fortunately, large parts of Asia and the Pacific were said to be endowed with high levels of solar insolation and have significant solar energy generation potential for both large-scale grid and off-grid applications.

"It is the individual form of energy, solar energy holds promise in providing power to the millions of people in the region with no access to traditional energy supplies. As an added and perhaps most important benefit, rapid and sustainable development of solar energy applications in the region is key to accelerating solar energy's global march to achieving grid parity," the ADB added.

An ADB study projected that energy demand for Asia and the Pacific would grow by an average of 2.6 percent until 2030, more than double the world's average over the same period.

One of the biggest challenges confronting policymakers in the region is how to provide adequate, affordable access to clean energy for a large, growing population. Added to this are issues of energy security and policies, especially for the poorest, as well as energy delivery, especially across diverse terrain and climate conditions, according to the ADB.

"These struggles present vast opportunities for solar energy development in the region. Solar energy can offer substantial solutions to help address the energy challenges confronting Asia and the Pacific," it said.

BUSINESS

P-Noy: Increase RE use won't jack up power rates

Level playing field, transparency, fair pricing ensured

By Aleq B. Ramos

THE AQUINO administration has vowed to ensure that a three-fold increase in the use of renewable energy resources will not push up electricity rates unreasonably in the next two decades.

In his keynote speech during the launch of the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) yesterday, President Benigno S. Aquino III said the government, by way of policies and guidelines, would "ensure a level playing field, transparency, and fair electricity pricing."

According to Mr. Aquino, the current administration will vigorously support initiatives for the development of the local clean energy sector as this was one of the immediate priorities of the government. Among these initiatives was the launch of the NREP which will serve as a roadmap, outlining national RE targets and establish a framework for enabling and planned policies.

He also said the government would keep a "watchful eye" in ensuring that the implementation of this private energy roadmap would be advantageous to all stakeholders, particularly power consumers.

The launch of the NREP according to Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras, marked a milestone in Philippine renewable energy development "for we are launching not just a program, but a plan to ramp up efforts toward the full development and use of the country's renewable energy resources."

Under the NREP, the Philippines will target to increase RE-based power capacity by as much as 15,200 megawatts by 2030 to over 20,600 MW in installed capacity dimension said in his speech yesterday.

This target will allow the country to have a power mix, in which RE resources will account to more than 50 percent in the 61,000 to 81,000 MW generation mix of the 26.3 percent, he added.

The goals set under the NREP can be achieved, the energy chief noted, given that the country has abundant renewable energy sources, with current estimates ranging from 200,000 MW to as high as 276,000 MW in potential capacity. These resources included biomass, geothermal, solar, hydro, ocean and wind.

"We have set reasonable milestones in pursuit of our NREP and as we move to reach our target, we hope to deliver these milestones towards building better investments in our drive to fully develop the country's available resources," Mr. Aquino explained.

"NREP is a plan and like all plans, it is just call in stone. It must be constantly reviewed and updated as he able to adjust in new technologies develop. As a living document, the NREP will be regularly reviewed and updated, guided by our primary goal of providing clean and affordable energy sources to future generations of Filipinos," he added.

Mr. Aquino noted that the Philippine government would serve as a "catch up event" on renewable energy as it has lagged in implementing the mechanisms that should have been put in place after the law was signed in 2008.

PH on track to limiting budget gap to 3.1% of GDP

By Reena P. Domingo

CONCERNS ABOUT Philippine fiscal sustainability to "no longer worsen" as government spending is now under control and the budget deficit is on a downward, according to the International Institute of Management of Finance (IIF).

The fiscal performance so far this year, according to the Washington-based global association of financial institutions, bodes well for the government to achieve its target of reducing the budget deficit to 3.1 percent of gross domestic product this year from 3.5 percent previously.

The latest limiting overspending by P100 billion this year, down from P134.4 billion in 2010.

"In contrast to many governments around the world struggling to contain excessive budget deficits, the Aquino administration has kept its pledge to withdraw the fiscal stimulus injected in response to the global financial crisis," the IIF said.

"While there are no major tax initiatives in the current budget, the government expects to build on its tax reform to bolster administration and col-

TURN TO

Agri-tourism pushed as strategy to attract visitors

By Abigail L. Ho

A-LIFE Events International Inc., a company tied to the government to spur growth in rural areas, is pushing agri-eco-tourism as a way to lure tourists into the country.

According to A-Life president Kenneth Dong, the Philippines was well positioned to take advantage of this type of tourism, being a predominantly agricultural country.

"Agriculture contributes 11.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product, while tourism is being projected to contribute 6.35 percent. These are two industries that can provide stability and growth to the Philippine economy," he said in a statement.

"The Philippines remains an agriculture-based country. We intend to combine that with the increased demand in travel to create a market that can provide employment in the rural parts," he added.

GOINGS-ON

Miner voted best employer

AFTER BEING proclaimed Most Outstanding Employer in Zamboanga del Norte, Titi Resources Development Philippines Inc. (TRDP) now also been named Most Outstanding Employer in the Zamboanga Peninsula Region.

The award was jointly conferred by the Department of Labor and Employment Region 9, the Tertiary Club of Zamboanga City-Ilustrado Zamboanga Peninsula Tripartite Industrial Peace Council during the Search for Region Eight of those held at the Lantaka Hotel, Zamboanga City recently.

The Outstanding Employer Award is conferred on establishments that promote strong employee morale, boost efficiency, improve productivity and competitiveness, and have a good sense of social responsibility and accountability. TRDP has over 600 employees.

Ibaya names new EVP

RIZAL PAHILAYAN Corp. announced the appointment of Takashi Ibaya from the company's new executive vice president, replacing Yuki Kato.

Prior to the appointment, Takashi was the general manager for marketing research and development at Mitsubishi Corp.'s head office in Japan.

Takashi, a native of Osaka and graduate of law at the University of Tokyo, has been working in the auto industry for 30 years now.

New NGA country manager

NORTHGATE INFORMED (NGI), the global provider of HR systems and services, has appointed Hans Montenegro to the position of country manager for the Philippines. Montenegro will spearhead the company's presence in the region and will be responsible for all aspects of the company's Philippine operations.

Initially hired as director for business development in 2010, Montenegro has continuously demonstrated his commitment to the company and to the Philippine HR market through various initiatives. These include the launch of Friends, a Web-based, end-to-end people management solution specifically tailored for the Philippine payroll market. In March 2011, NGI started its operations in the Philippines in 2008.

Since then, the company has become the global delivery center for its clients in the Asia-Pacific region.

Move expected to boost growth in rural areas

He explained that for this type of tourism, the food product of each province would serve as the highlight of tours, complemented by visits to the natural and cultural attractions.

Tourists would also take part in agricultural activities in the provinces that they would be visiting, he said. For example, they could be given a chance to experience farmland how it is to plant rice or harvest fruits of vegetables.

A-Life is holding the 1st International Agriculture and Tourism Expo at the end of the month. For this event, he said the company was inviting investors from China, Indonesia, and Southeast Asia to see for themselves what the Philippines had to offer as the area of agriculture tourism.

"We have already secured the backing of both the agriculture and tourism departments. By holding an expo, people will become aware of the potentials of both industries," he said.

Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo said the Department of Trade and Industry was looking at integrating its One Town, One Product (Otop) program with the country's overall plan to boost tourism.

The idea, he said, was to make products under the Otop program available in outlet locations related with the tourism setup there so visitors are to prospective tourists.

"We will offer these products to hotels and other tourist establishments, possibly products food tourism in some areas. We want to link tourism with the DTI so that we may have a synergy in our promotions," he said.

CICT to present digital strategy to Palace soon

By Rita T. Ochoterra

THE COMMISSION on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) is set to present the Philippine Digital Strategy to Malacañang within June, the national ICT month, according to Secretary Jose E. Uy.

Uy, who chairs the CICT, said the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector would play a key role in the Philippine Digital Strategy. The commission has long been working with industry group Business Processing Association of the Philippines, or BPAP, to build the capacity of BPO companies to meet challenges in growth, including the lacking supply of ICT-competitive English-speaking talents.

Aside from supporting BPO growth, an ICT strategy should drive e-government services to people in remote areas. The government must provide them access to social services and economic opportunities made available by ICT to enable it to achieve the "inclusive growth," which is the cornerstone of the present administration's development strategy.

The CICT, Uy said, had been putting up computer centers all over the country mostly in Barangay 143 areas, in cooperation with local government units.

Uy said the computer centers were basically Internet cafés that double as resource centers for online education, telemedicine, e-agriculture, e-fishery services and fishermen can go to check online sites for market prices, weather forecasts, technologies, and weather reports.

The commission has also been building computer laboratories in depressed areas such as the one in Sumakwel Mountain, where scavengers trained on ICT have graduated to become formal IT scanners. From there, some have taken up jobs in IT companies. The CICT also offers training for the deaf and the blind for future hiring by BPOs.

It's mid-term BPO vision has been for the CICT team to encourage companies to put together teams of 50 people to make their investment in special equipment pay off.

PH on track to limiting . . .

From page B9

factors," the group added.

The IBF said factors that point to the weak revenue performance so far this year, the plan to level expenditures for 2012 as a whole "suggests that the government has room to ramp up spending and enact its deficit-reduction target."

BF also said that a further reduction in the deficit was likely as the 6.0% borrowing plan for 2011 budget, which Malacañang is supposed to present to Congress in July.

"Fiscal sustainability should be bolstered in 2012 when the government follows through with its intention to enhance the chronically deficient tax regime," the group said.

Latest data from the Bureau of the Treasury show that the government's June 9 to 13 bidding has less than planned in April, showing a budget surplus that is more than 30 times the P2.6 billion posted in the same month of 2010 and the highest in 22 years.

Meanwhile, strikingly fiscal performance in April coincided in a surplus of P61 million for the first four months of 2011, a reversal of the P131.9-billion budget deficit recorded in the same period last year.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. XI
(Davao Region)
Bolton Bldg., Quezon Ave., Davao City
Telefax Nos.: (082) 305-5455

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Below is a twenty (20) day notice following establishments have filed with the Regional Office application for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company Employer	Name and Nationality of Foreign National	Name and Address of Position
1. INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION TECHNICS, INC. Capitol Technology, Bolton, Davao	Mr. Jonathan Ho Tan Singaporean	Project Engineer / Manager
2. AARON TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Capitol Technology, Bolton, Davao	Mr. Tan Ah Lee Chinese	Chief Engineer / Consultant
3. SMC - MORRISON INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION Bolton Bldg., Bolton, Davao City (Sto. Roque Barangay)	Mr. Tan Ah Beng Malaysian	Project Manager
4. KOBAYASHI HOTELS, INC. Bolton, Davao City	Mr. Tanaka Kenji Japanese	Corporate Vice President / Executive Director

If you have any information/comment to the above mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO C. MARTINEZ JR. CESO
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development No. XI
Davao del Sur Provincial Hospital

INVITATION TO BID FOR
Supply of Goods
(Re-Bidding)

1. The Provincial Regional and Medical Center now invites bids for the supply and delivery of the following goods: Portable X-ray Machine, Ultrasound Machine, Laboratory Equipment, Hospital Furniture and Fixtures, Medical Equipment, Hospital Beds and Mattress, Medical Supplies, Dialysis Machine, Laboratory Supplies, Medicines, Vaccines, Biologicals, Dialysis Supplies, Medical

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General Manager
- Must have at least 4 years experience handling the over all day to day operation of a local automotive dealership.
- Knowledgeable in all phases of planning, managing and improving the sales, after-sales and support group.

Purchasing Manager
- At least 2 years experience on a managerial position in purchasing.
- Knowledgeable on forecasting purchasing needs, creating and implementing purchasing key performance indicators, such as: timely delivery, accurate quantity, high quality, controlled cost in processing purchase and reliable suppliers.

Service Manager
- B.S. Mechanical Engineering, with at least 2 years experience on a managerial position.
- Must oversee effectively day to day operations of workshop, in parts, in technical service and warranty claiming, all alternates support group.

Car Rental Manager
- Graduate of any business course with at least 2 years experience in a managerial level from a car rental business.
- Knowledgeable in all the operational aspects of car rental business: monitoring of car rental inventory, movement of vehicles and drivers, knowledge on the process of leasing and accounting of rental vehicles, and the understanding of paid report documents such as lease agreements, contracts, accident logs and other legal documents needed in the business.

Sales Manager for Trucks and Buses
- Graduate of any engineering course, preferably ME or ECE with at least 3 years experience on the same position, handling the same line of business.
- Must be knowledgeable on meeting sales target thru effective plans and programs for sales and management of sales team. Must have at least the basic technical knowledge of the product.

Body & Paint Assistant Manager
- B.S. Mechanical Engineering graduate or equivalent, with at least 2 years experience on the same level.
- Must oversee Body and Paint's day to day operations in painting, in chassis, in body and paint finishing, in body and paint support group.

Sales Training Assistant Manager
- With at least 2 years experience on the same level handling sales training plans and programs from an automotive company.
- Can create, facilitate and implement sales training programs, activities and modules.

Executive Assistant 1
- Preferably a B.S. Mechanical Engineering graduate.
- With at least 1 year experience in the Automotive from the automotive industry.

Executive Assistant 2
- Graduate of any business course with at least 2 years experience on the same level.
- Can manage the day to day needs of a top executive. Can do research, reports, analyze data and very good in business correspondence.

Logistics Assistant Manager
- Graduate of any business course with at least 2 years experience on the same level or vice versa/business.
- Manage the daily service maintenance to ensure all vehicles road worthiness, dispatching and monitoring of personnel and drivers.

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OBITUARIES

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
(2 Timothy 4)

Our beloved mother
2nd Death Anniversary

CARMEN "Menchu" OMARREMENTERIA - ABAD SANTOS

(15 July 1941 – 15 June 2009)

Her husband Quirino, daughter Marivel with Caloy, Alex, and Pedro Raymund; daughter-in-law Lara and Cathy; grandchildren Cedric, Raphael, Michael, Gavin, and Margot; relatives and friends request the reader's to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

"Where there is great love there are miracles"

Elizabeth Balao Almario

August 25, 1958 – June 13, 2011

Her loving husband, Dindo; children Monique, Carlo, Dana, Luigi & Jane; her parents Carling & Deving Balao; siblings Eddie & Jeanell, Mel & Milet, Irene, Michael & Janet & Jenny & John; mother-in-law Paula Syquia Almario; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends request the reader to remember Beth in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium – Sucat, Parañaque. Cremation will follow the 3 p.m. Mass on Sunday, June 19, 2011.

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." – Philippians 1:21

ADORACION PEREA TANEGA ARUNDO
of Nac Cavite

died on the age of 85 on June 11, 2011.

With of the late Edgardo Ilaw Abundo of Tanauan, Cavite; Mother of Marcelo (Deceased), Glenda S. Arnaldo, Marilyn de Leo of Teodilo Manalo; Grandmother of Millicent & Andrew Edgar.

The body lies in Ritad Street, Nac Cavite. Rite will be buried at the family mausoleum at Manancar Eternal Garden.

Please pray for her.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm, for you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

†

RAFAEL ORTIGAS ORTIGAS

Christ the King, Intramuros
Mid. Count for St. Basil Pandacan
Blessed Sacrament, Greenhills
Divine Mercy
St. Francis Church, Mandaluyong
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills
St. Gabriel Parish, Caloocan
Chapel of the Holy Family, Greenhills Shopping Center

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BUSINESS

Investor interest in PECR 4 remains high

15 blocks offered well within PH territory

By Amy R. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE government's verbal row with China over the disputed Spratley Island has not made a dent in the investor interest in the upcoming Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR) 4R, where 15 highly prospective oil and gas blocks will be offered for exploration and development.

At the sidelines of the launching of the National Renewable Energy Program yesterday, Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. stressed that these 15 blocks were all within Philippine territories and that "there's no issue about that."

"We're not offering any block in the Reed Bank," he further noted.

Layug pointed out that none of the over 150 prospective firms that had expressed interest in investing in the country's upstream oil and gas sector even brought up the Spratley issue because "they know all the areas we are offering are located within the Philippine territory."

And nobody is questioning this fact. The question is as it, when can you offer more particularly in the Reed Bank? The Reed Bank is within the country's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone," he added.

In fact, Layug noted, there were a couple of international Chinese firms that wanted to participate in the PECR 4 to be held this coming June 30.

The DOE is offering 15 contracts for the exploration, development and production of prospective oil and gas sites, in areas spanning across 7,702 million hectares in onshore and offshore Cagayan, Central Luzon, Northwest Palawan, Mindoro-Cuyo-Sulop, East Palawan and Cotabato.

Among the areas eyed mostly by the investors were three blocks in the Northwest Palawan area, home to the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project, the largest and most successful natural gas-to-power project in Philippine history.

Many investor were also keen on five blocks within the Sulu Sea where petroleum exploration giant Royal-dutch Exploration and Production Philippines B.V. has already drilled four wells. There are of those four wells have indicated petroleum and natural gas finds that have encouraged investors to look further at the Philippines for other potential petroleum sites.

"This is the best time to conduct the (ECR 4) especially with the high oil prices. Everybody wants to look for new exploration blocks of high-oil-price environment," he added.

The PECR 4 forms part of President Aquino's long-term plans to address the Philippines' need for oil and gas and to reduce the country's dependence on costly imported oil.

NGCP pushing through with Leyte-Mindanao interconnection

NATIONAL GRID Corp. of the Philippines intends to push through with the P16-billion Leyte-Mindanao Interconnection Project (LMIP), a three-decade old government project seen to greatly boost power supply in Mindanao, for so long as government regulators would allow it.

NGCP president Henry Sy Jr. reiterated the company's intention to move the project forward, stating the current third regulatory period (2011 to 2015) damp a second chance at review.

"The LMIP is still under study but very much on the table," he said.

Sy said NGCP operator of the country's transmission network, was even willing to advance the funds needed to implement the multibillion-peso project, for so long as the Energy Regulatory Commission would approve the spending by it.

He noted that the decision as to whether or not the project will be pursued will highly depend on the commission's decision. NGCP had already submitted its petition to the ERC to implement the first phase of the LMIP project but the commission has yet to hand out its decision.

The first phase will involve the conduct of a P92-million feasibility and technical study to update the last one that was made by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the state-run National Power Corp. in 2001.

The second phase of the LMIP which will see the construction of 23 kilometers of submarine cables to connect the Leyte and Surigao substations, covered the actual implementation of the project. Amy R. Remo

AgriLink '11 highlights farm integration

INTEGRATION is a topic in agriculture that continues to gain importance due to increased emphasis on sustainability as well as enhanced productivity, profitability and global competitiveness. Most farming systems today focus on large-scale, commercially productive systems which can work well in generating revenue on a short-term basis, but there is apparent need for a balancing factor more environmentally and socially-friendly. There are also added concerns for technical, economic and structural developments to agricultural systems that would be more suitable to small farmers.

According to Foundation for Resource Landscape and Development (FRLD)'s president Antonio V. Bowie, "One way of approaching the current agricultural quandary is for farmers and stakeholders to work together to enhanced, integrated production systems which integrate soil quality enhancement, reduction of contamination and establishes stronger farming communities with better revenues. The challenge for the government, the private sector and our farmers is to coordinate and complement with each other to adopt proven technologies and management systems in the development of these integrated farming systems."

From Oct. 6 to 8, 2011, FRLD, on its 10th year, will be organizing the country's largest and most influential trade fair on agriculture, aquaculture and food, AgriLink, AquaLink and FoodLink. To be held at the World Trade Center, the event's theme, "Integration: Key to Sustainable Agriculture," seeks to promote the holistic integration concept and approach toward a more productive, efficient and self-sustaining Philippine agribusiness.

Bowie added, "This year's AgriLink seeks to help in the process of effectively linking our farmers to the market and maximize their benefits from the value chain.

BUSINESS

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Massive size to drive PLDT efficiency, says MVP

Urges regulators to look kindly on merger with Digitel

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BUSINESSMAN Manuel V. Pangilinan said having a bigger company that could deliver services to the public more efficiently and at a lower cost would be the best way to drive innovation in the country's telecommunications sector.

Mr. Pangilinan's Long Distance Telephone Co.'s (PLDT) stockholders' meeting on Tuesday company chair Pangilinan said the global trend was for smaller telecom firms to combine resources—for example against cash that results in the redundancy of investments.

"Market consolidation is happening across the globe, and this is driven by lack of growth in the previous years," Pangilinan told shareholders.

The company on Tuesday approved the issuance of new PLDT shares at a price of P2,500 each, which will be used to pay for the acquisition of 100 percent of Digitel Telecommunications Philippines Inc., operator of San Cellular.

Pangilinan said the takeover of San Cellular, which will result in a telecom player with a market share of 70 percent, would result in a significant improvement in the value of PLDT shares held by investors.

"In many parts of the world, regulators have had a more favorable view of market consolidation. In consolidated markets like Japan, investors are better and cheaper than in competitive markets like the US and Europe," he said.

Republican Telecom Inc. earlier opposed the PLDT-Digitel deal, saying that the merger would result in a single player being able to dictate market prices, which is against the welfare of consumers.

"A consolidated market is better than a competitive one," Pangilinan pointed out. But he said this did not mean that competition would completely be eliminated in the industry.

He said subscribers retained "considerable" and that there is nothing stopping the entry of new players to challenge PLDT's dominance.

The approval of the National Telecommunications Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange are still required for the Digitel takeover to push through.

PLDT expects to complete the takeover of Digitel by the end of the month. Earlier, the Senate committee on information and communications technology said acquisitional approval for the deal was no longer required.

The total acquisition price is estimated at P74.1 billion, which includes 100 percent of the company shares and Digitel's preferred shares to its current owner, JG Summit. After the sale, JG Summit will end up with a 13 percent stake in PLDT.

After 23 months of decline, NCR factory gate prices finally up

By Reinel W. Domingo

FACTORY GATE prices finally showed growth in April as 1.6 percent year-on-year following 23 straight months of decline, according to the National Statistics Office.

The turnaround was attributed mainly to the continuing double-digit hike in prices of petroleum products, registering at 25.6 percent.

Results from the NSO's latest monthly survey of factory gate prices—which covered 20 selected groups of manufactured goods included in the producer price index (PPI)—showed that prices in 12 other groups rose while six others gained, while one showed no price change.

Posting double-digit drops were the prices of food manufacturing, non-electrical machinery, tobacco products, fabricated metal products, textiles, rubber and plastic products, transport equipment, nonmetallic mineral products, leather products, footwear and sewing apparel, wood and wood products, and fruits' furniture.

On the other hand, prices of furniture and fixtures continued to contract, settling at 21.1 percent.

Other prices hikes in April were electrical machinery, paper and paper products, furniture, miscellaneous manufactured items, and chemicals.

Latest data on manufacturing output show that the growth in the value and volume of manufacturing output continued to slow down in March at 9.2 percent and 13.1 percent year-on-year, respectively, compared to February levels.

In March, growth in value eased from 13.6 percent in February, while volume increased for the 16th consecutive month.

Rate of price hikes in building materials slowed down in April

By Nico T. Dizon Jr.

THE RATE of rise in the prices of select construction materials in the National Capital Region slowed down in May 2011 from April, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Apart from painting materials and related compounds, prices of other materials slowed down.

According to the NSO, the month-on-month growth rate of the retail price index of select construction materials in the NCR eased to 0.2 percent in May 2011 from 0.5 percent in April 2011.

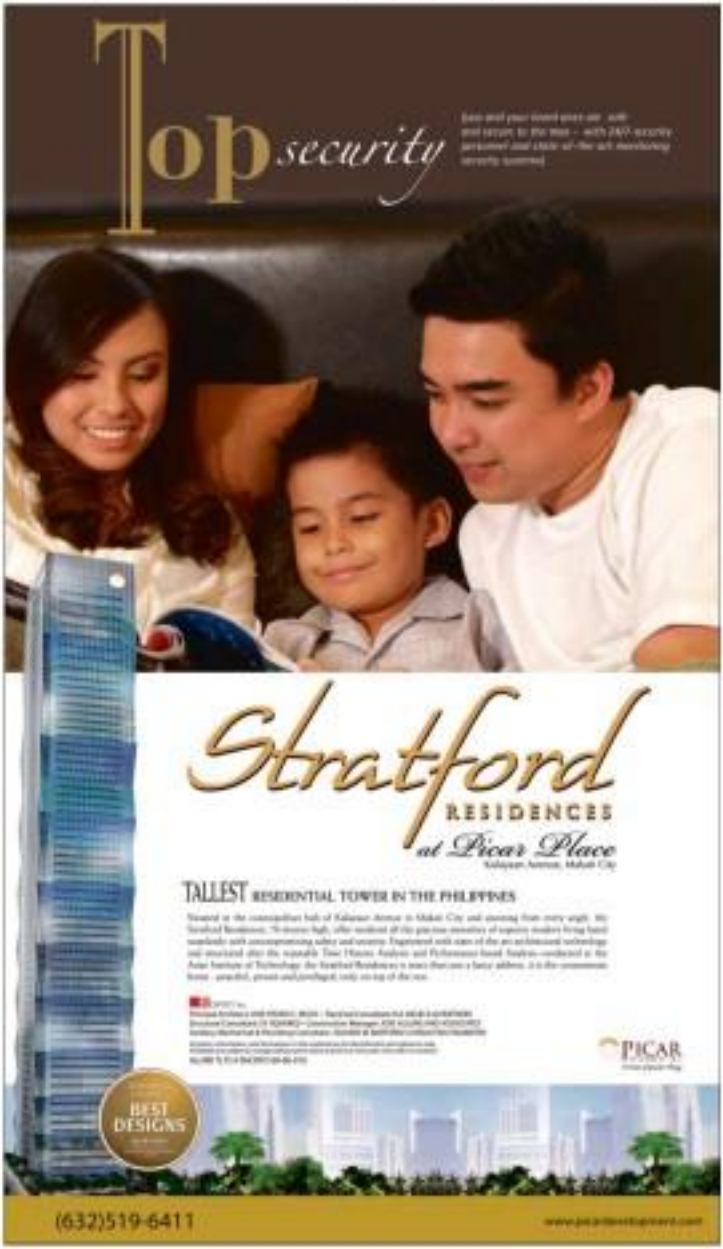
A decline was posted in the index of masonry materials at -0.7 percent in May from -0.2 percent in April; plumbing materials, -0.3 percent from 1.8 percent; and the miscellaneous materials, -0.5 percent from zero percent.

Also, the monthly rate of increase in electrical materials index decelerated to 0.1 percent from 0.3 percent and miscellaneous construction materials, 0.2 percent from 0.3 percent.

A higher monthly hike was noted in carpentry materials index at 0.6 percent from 0.5 percent while the same April rate of 0.8 percent was observed in painting materials and related compounds index.

Downward price adjustments were noted in cement, gravel, sand, and selected wet-weather materials.

The annual growth rate of the retail price index of selected construction materials in the NCR was slower at 4.5 percent in May from 4.7 percent in April.



Get smart with these awesome back-to-school apps

IT'S TIME to march back to the last leg toward halfway and vacation. It's an opportune time for your brain's rainchecks to do the rounds.

Contrary to popular belief, apps are not limited to games and entertainment purposes – a fact that we all know too well what with the likes of Angry Birds and YouTube around. Rather, there are quite a few out there that can really make any smart device into a useful personal mobile.

Here's a sneak peek at some free apps which are available on various mobile phone operating systems.

Evernote for BlackBerry – Dubbed as an "extension of your brain", Evernote for BlackBerry lets you jot down text notes, record audio notes, or take pictures of anything that caught your attention. It's a clever complement to your school notebook – the paper kind, and to your school notebook – the electronic kind. Plus, with a Wi-Fi connection, you can sync your notes wherever you please. Best with BlackBerry Curve 8520 (free at Smart Gold Plus 1000).

Camfrontier for Android – Turn camera on your phone is not just for taking self-portraits anymore. With this app, your phone could become a document scanner, image compressor, and multi-page Adobe PDF creator. You can literally digitize your hand-written notes in just a few easy steps and use these for class presentations and projects. Best with Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc (free at Smart Gold Plus 2500 and Unlimited Data Plus 3000).

Opera Mobile for Symbian – Speed-of-the-moment online research is not unusual especially when you want to finish your homework on time. Opera for Symbian allows for fast loading times and easy navigation in a built-in pleasing user interface. Plus, you can organize your favorite sites in a location right below right in the home screen. Best with Nokia C7 (free at Smart Plus 1500 and Unlimited Data Plus 1000, promo from June 15 to 30).

Dropbox for Android – Access files from your online storage and edit them whenever and wherever you please. Dropbox synchronizes all your documents so you're sure to have the latest versions whether you're at home, using your desktop computer or tapping frantically on your mobile phone or tablet device. Best with HTC Desire S (free at Smart Plus 2000 and Unlimited Data Plus 3000).

MiniMailing for Windows Mobile – Enough where to park that external, where to train a picket, and where to just answer the morning essay on a school day with this handy app. This only does MiniMailing have what's going on in the Philippines and around the world, it also has limited weather information literally from Aitken to Zamboanga. Best with HTC 7 Mozart (free at Commmobile Plus 2500 and Unlimited Data Plus 3000).

For more information about other handsets available from Smart or to know more about Smart's postpaid and prepaid plans, log on to www.smart.com.ph or visit your nearest Smart Gold Plus store.

A POWER LUNCH WITH PACMAN

Ronald Pacman of Sarangani City was selected as one of the three Manny Pacquiao look-alikes who competed in the Pacquiao Monday Day 4 fight last to get more

Pacman was treated to a lunch date and celebrity session with the world's second-fan-powered boxing champion Manny Pacquiao at Malacañang Palace. Ronald Pacman's Day at the Executive Dining Room of San Miguel Corp's head office where he met the office boss himself, San Miguel Chairman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., CEO Ramon Ang, and other San Miguel executives.

Pacman took it all with him: Pacquiao and

S&P slashes Greece to lowest, says default likely

But Athens says it's committed to austerity program amid protests

ATHENS/NEW YORK—Greece became the lowest-rated country in the world in the rankings of Standard & Poor's on Monday, putting it below Ecuador, Jamaica, Pakistan and Grenada.

The rating agency cut Greece three notches and warned it would view a likely debt restructuring as a default.

This was the latest blow for the country's Socialist government, which is struggling to push a new austerity package through parliament to clinch continued funding under a year-old bailout plan despite many public discontent.

Barely a year after Athens was granted a first 110-billion-euro aid package, the European Union, the IMF and the European Central Bank are working on a second funding deal.

Meanwhile, Greek banks holding Greek debt appear to be moving toward agreement on buying new bonds to replace those they hold that mature next month.

IMF and European policymakers looked increasingly likely to impose a restructuring of the country's debt—either on a bond swap or by converting bond maturities—as a means of having the private holders of Greek bonds share the burden.

"In our views any such transaction would likely be on terms less favourable than the debt being refinanced, which we, in turn, would view as a de facto default according to Standard & Poor's published criteria," the agency said.

In such a case, S&P added, Greece's credit rating would be lowered to "selective default," or SD, while the ratings on the country's debt instruments would be cut to D.

It cut Greece's long-term sovereign credit rating to CCC, four steps above from default, from B. The downgrade rating was effective with yesterday's announcement from a credit watch.

The move takes S&P's rating of Greece one notch below Moody's Caa1, while Fitch ranks Greece at B+. The ranks Greece the fourth country in S&P's rankings.

S&P said the outlook on the long-term rating remained negative, a sign that another downgrade is likely in the next 12 to 18 months.

Reacting to the downgrade, Greece said the move by Standard & Poor's contradicted the government's commitments to carry on with tough fiscal efforts to regain public finances and reminds a member of the 17-member euro on many visits.

"The decision also overlooks the government's success to avoid any problem relating to Greece's instrument obligations, as well as the fact all of bonds replace on them inside the euro zone," the finance ministry said in a statement.

Several banks have come out publicly in favor of rolling over their holdings of Greek debt, including France's Credit Agricole, which owns Greek bank Emporiki.

Germany's banking association said on Saturday it backed the idea of private creditors participating in the rescue.

Reuters

GREEK protesters gesture as they gather at the entrance of Greece's embassy in London, Sunday, June 12, 2011. A dozen protesters gathered to express their solidarity with the protesters at a rally in Athens, Greece, where more than one thousand people gathered to protest new austerity measures which were announced on Friday. The measures include a host of new taxes on austerity-weary Greeks.

Obama expresses concern about slowing economy as elections near

WASHINGTON—With few options at hand and his poll numbers sagging, President Barack Obama expressed concern Tuesday about the sudden downturn in the economy but said he is not worried about a second recession and insisted he could "still get it done."

The president spoke about the new economic trouble in detail for the first time since a report last last week showed job growth had slowed sharply in May. He vowed to measure businesses worried about high unemployment and consumer gas that the economy is on solid, if not steady, path to recovery.

"I am concerned about the fact that the recovery that we're on is not producing jobs as quickly as I want it to happen," Obama said at an appearance with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "We don't yet know whether this is a one-month episode or a longer trend."

Either way, there appears to be little Washington can do about it.

Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke, speaking in Atlanta on Tuesday, acknowledged the economy has lost momentum but said nothing to suggest the Fed was about to take any $440 new action to further shore it up.

And with lawmakers fighting over the U.S. budget deficit and long-term debt, there is no political appetite for a second easier federal stimulus bill like the one passed by Congress in 2009.

At the same time, the president is confronted with a slate of figures presenting challenges to both the economy in recovery and his own reelection prospects. Just as the field of Republican challengers began to take shape, a Washington Post-ABC News survey found that public disapproval of Obama's handling of the economy has reached a record high, 55 percent.

The poll found that Obama and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney are tied among all Americans in a hypothetical match-up for president. It put Romney at slight edge, less than the margin of error, over registered voters.

Seventeen months before the election, unemployment is 9.1 percent. When Obama took office, it was 7.8 percent. More worrisome, think the rate will be down 8 percent at election time next year. Since World War II, no president has been reelected with unemployment higher than 7.2 percent.

The day brought the latest in a stream of downbeat economic news, a government report that said businesses advertised fewer job openings in April than in March.

AP

Fed urged to raise rates soon

DALLAS—The US Federal Reserve must resist its urge to ease monetary policy to help limiting customary prices, a top Fed official known for his hawkish views on inflation said on Monday.

"There's enormous liquidity in the system," said Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Richard Fisher, a voting member this year of the Fed's policy-setting panel. "We need to tighten policy or give rise to inflationary forces."

The Fed has kept interest rates near zero for two and a half years, and has bought more than $2 trillion in long-term securities to push borrowing costs still lower and help pull the US economy from its worst recession since the Great Depression.

With recent economic data falling short of expectations, the Fed is now expected to start closing rates until late next year, based on tracking short-term US interest rate futures at the Chicago Board of Trade.

Fisher did not say when he believes the Fed should start removing accommodation, although several of his many hawkish colleagues have called for tightening as soon as this year. The Fed's policy setting panel meets next week.

Fisher repeated earlier comments that the US central bank has done its job and should not add any further stimulus.

"The fact today versus the Fed's more dovish members concern, saying the base is very high for further bond-buying. The Fed is set to complete a $600 billion round of Treasury buying this month, and Bill Chee Ben Bernanke last week gave no suggestion he would call for further purchases.

Fisher repeated his view that it is up to Congress to keep the recovery on track by clarifying the outlook for tax policy and regulations. It also will help, he said, when growing demand becomes more obvious.

"The ball is now in the court of the economy all by ourselves. Our job is to provide the fuel, but not to flood it, so as to create inflation," Fisher said.

Reuters

IMF boots Fischer from race for top job

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund's board on Monday blocked Bank of Israel governor Stanley Fischer from the race for the next IMF job, further boosting the chances of French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde.

In a surprise move, the 24-member IMF board rejected changing the IMF's rules that would have allowed 67-year-old Fischer to run, even though official told Reuters. IMF rules stipulate an age limit of 65 for an incoming managing director.

The officials said changing the rules for Fischer, who is highly respected by both advanced and emerging economies, would have required a reopening of the selection process by other candidates older than 65 to participate in the race.

An IMF board statement later confirmed it had shortlisted Lagarde and Mexico's central bank chief Agustin Carstens and would consider their nominations, although made no mention of Fischer.

"The executive board will meet with the candidates in Washington and, thereafter, meet to discuss the strengths of the candidates and make a selection," the board said.

It announced that it plans to hold interviews the selection on June 27-30.

Front runner Lagarde is backed by Europe, which holds one third of the votes, and a handful of other countries including Indonesia, whose Finance Minister Agus Martowardojo said he personally supports her candidacy.

If she wins, Lagarde would become the first woman to head the IMF which has been criticized in providing rescue loans to countries in crisis including Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

Caracas has the support of a dozen Latin American countries, including Colombia, in a race which, despite being one of the most hotly contested in IMF history, is widely expected to result in Europe maintaining its 65-year grip on the job.

Brazil, the region's largest economy, has not yet said whether it will back Caracas.

Caracas acknowledged on Monday that he was a long-shot candidate and he knew chances were "quite high" that Lagarde would get the job. He's vacant by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who was arrested in New York in May on sexual assault charges. He has denied the charges.

Reuters

PLDT DIGI VAULT:

The Next Level In Online Storage

In this cyber age, the rate of digital data has become more and more common. In fact, businesses that utilize computer files in regular operations have the upper hand. With this in mind, PLDT SME Nation has created a revolutionary way of storing your information. Your local business partner in connectivity recently launched introduces Digi Vault, a data security and storage solution that gives you accessible file storage space via the Internet to securely keep your most important digital archives on.

PLDT Digi Vaults then send secure online storage for your business. It gives you up to up to 50 Gigabytes of storage. Totally independent of your operating room, printer equipment, you no longer have to worry about physical damages, viruses or unauthorized access as you to the secure storage devices. Business owners can now conveniently access, store and backup, and retrieve their most important files via the Internet! Without having to worry about data loss or capacity overload, it is no wonder that more and more SMEs worldwide prefer saving files in the world wide web.

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NY lawyers: Affair with boss led to inside trades

NEW YORK—Lawyers for a woman accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission of using pillow talk to get inside secrets finished her boss on Monday, saying he fulfilled her dying a 20-year affair to make her get illegal secrets to him.

The lawyers, seeking leniency for Danielle Chiesi, who was convicted by a federal judge in Manhattan that Chiesi was manipulated by her boss, Mark Kurland, he testify how decades as he carried on the affair, which began when he was 40 years old and she was 22.

Chiesi, now 46, pleaded guilty in January to conspiracy and securities fraud charges, and her case was heard frequently on media tapes played last month at the trial of her friend Raj Rajaratnam, a one-time billionaire hedge fund founder from Sri Lanka awaiting sentencing to rebel prison terms of up to 19 years.

Chiesi's lawyers asked a judge to reject the government's request that Chiesi be sentenced to three to four years in prison, saying she is less culpable than Kurland, who already has been sentenced to four years and three months behind bars.

They wrote that Kurland was more than Chiesi's boss while she worked at Level Global, which was the equity hedge fund group of Steve Cohen's Management Inc.

"He was also her lover, for almost 20 years," they said. Their was and will say today that she did it in love with him. She came the idea that Kurland said her his own purpose, and the truth of that long relationship is probably far more complicated than any of us can know."

But the lawyers urged the judge to consider "mitigating factors" at sentencing, including that Kurland tried to take advantage of contacts and connections he knew Chiesi had with people in high positions at public companies.

"He encouraged her to cultivate those contacts and connections, he urged her to get inside information from those people, or times flattering her information-getting abilities, and at the same time belittling her understanding of financial numbers," they wrote.

AP

BUSINESS

China's May inflation spikes up

Rising food costs push CPI to highest level in 34 months

A CUSTOMER checks the price tags for chicken and duck meat in Hefei, Anhui province. China's inflation rose in May, adding to the case for tighter monetary policy. AFP

BEIJING/SEOUL—China's inflation rose to its highest level in nearly three years in May, thanks largely to stubbornly high food prices, adding to economic and social strains that have focused worst protests.

The 5.5 percent rise in the consumer price index reported Tuesday was in line with expectations but higher than April's 5.3 percent and March's 22-month high of 5.4 percent. The National Statistics Bureau said the main factor was an 11.7 percent jump in food prices.

While food scare are likely to cool over as supplies improve over the summer months, China is juggling conflicting goals. By constraining bank lending in an effort to keep prices under control, it is pinching credit to the smaller, private businesses that drive most job creation and much of the country's growth.

The spate of street demonstrations and beatings, from Inner Mongolia in the north all the way to Guangdong in the south, has highlighted the precarious balance the communist leadership is striving to maintain while keeping the world's second largest economy growing at a subtle pace.

Surging prices for food and other basic necessities have added to the frustrations over inequality, abuse of power and suppression of legitimate grievances that drives unrest turbulence.

"My pension increases once a year by more than 100 yuan ($15), but I can't afford increases in food costs," said Ma Chuanyi, a retired elementary school teacher. "I find that what prices under control, it is pinching another the smaller, private business is what

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MOTORING

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Safe and visible

Improve your driving preparedness during adverse weather conditions

By Boochi Santos

THE WEATHER gets just unusual the electric mote typhoons and heavy rains are in for expected in the coming weeks and the Inquirer Motoring team wants everybody to be prepared for driving in poor weather. As raindrops keep falling on our roads, we continue our series on safety climbs by offering these valuable tips on how to increase your own visibility as well as the visibility of your car to other motorists on the road.

1 **Check your headlamps.** A lot of cars, even brand-new ones come out of the factory with headlights mis-aligned or pointing in the wrong directions (either too high or too low). The first step to to bring it to a shop that has an alignment machine for your headlights so that it will be pointing in the right direction. Simon Bulbs in textures *true*, as well as motorcycles / DTM in Sun Bonifacio are two such shops with a headlight alignment device. Tommy Ting of Automobile / DTM says that ideally the headlamps should have a focal range of 75-90 meters on the passenger side (right hand side) and 55-75 meters on the driver's side (left hand side) for left-hand-drive vehicles. The reduced focal range on the driver's side is to minimize glare for oncoming vehicles on the opposite lane. I've seen a lot of cars have their headlights dipped too low enough out of the factory, and through years of use, or constantly switching cool and replacing headlamp bulbs and assemblies, or retrofitting HID headlamp assemblies, if your headlamp housings are made of plastic and are older than five years, chances are the insides are slightly foamy and discolored, leading to impaired focal range of your headlamps and limited visibility for you. You should ideally have these assemblies checked, or be more adventurous and (legal) car owners, bring them to In-more where a variety of sidewalk salesmen offer to dismantle your headlamp assemblies, use a professional-grade cleaning solution to wipe out the discoloration and have those headlights looking almost as good and as clear as new. The mis-matched though is that the process can break the headlamp assembly completely, or will cause poor sealing, thereby allowing condensation/fogging to occur inside your headlamps, further reducing your focal range and limiting visibility to bad weather.

2 **Check your window tints.** Yes that is too dark will adversely limit your night time visibility even if your headlamps are working properly. No amount of headlight upgrading will safely improve visibility: get headlamp bulbs too bright and you pose as a menace to oncoming traffic who might be temporarily blinded by the intense glare from your headlamps, thereby causing an accident, especially in adverse driving conditions. At the very least, have your front windshield tinted with a neutral or very light tint so you can see clearly well ahead of you when it is raining hard or driving through thick fog. Technically, both the LTO and MMDA have issued strict rulings on how dark window tints can be especially for the front windows so you'll be legally compliant when you install very light tint on your windshield at least.

3 **Clean your windshield.** Over time, your windshield is exposed to a variety of adverse elements, chemicals and substances. Tree sap, bird droppings, acid rain, the decomposing rubber from your wiper blades and the lubricating oil from the rubber wiper blade itself, plus dirt, grime and sometimes even road will gradually form a layer on your windshield that will impede your visibility. Even rain water that dries up on your windshield causes water marks which severely limit visibility and prevent your windshield wipers from effectively removing rain water from your windshield in a downpour. Mitra Cuisip, professional detailer and owner of Wash 'N' Stuff detailing recommends that you bring your car to a detailing shop at least three times a year to have the windshield professionally scraped off and cleaned of all chemicals using the proper tool and cleaning materials. You might need to do this more often however if you find yourself driving through heavy rain a lot, perhaps as often as every month during the rainy season. A detailing shop will also apply another coating that acts as a water repellant, preventing water spots from forming, and allowing water to flow down smoothly so bird- and sport windshield wipers when heavy rains come. How to prevent this? As soon as the rains stop, wash your windshield with clean water and some mild soap and dry it immediately with a soft terry cloth, chamois or microfiber cloth to prevent scratching your windshield.

4 **Upgrade your existing headlamps.** While the intense verses halogen versus HID / xenon headlamps sometimes, sometimes, unjustly with poor street lighting, extremely adverse weather conditions and poorly surfaced roads, we have no choice but to upgrade our current set of headlamps. While the super white / blue / purple and even green headlights might look cool, nothing brightens up a dark night better than gold / yellow or daylight colored headlamp bulbs because it ultimately gives a far better contrast between dark and light. Bally cars using on a night stage look so fun in the early 90's usually use yellow-gold headlamps while driving through brush such spools, as if the guys do it, so should we! Using a yellow-gold colored bulb, especially for your fog-lamps / auxiliary driving lamps is extra effective in increasing visibility at night. Just make sure to wire them up properly using thick gauge wires and using genuine relays when needed. Don't make the mistake of installing ultra-powerful headlamp

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Speed and fuel efficiency: Driving like day and night

By JEANETTE IGNACIO-TAGUIAM
Cook Doctor

THE GREENING concept for global warming and the need to care for the environment have caused a change in both product and service marketing. As consumers take into consideration fuel consumption and carbon footprint, the emergence of more fuel-efficient vehicles is fast locking in performance continues. In this scenario, speed and fuel efficiency seem to be on the extreme opposites of the spectrum, like day and night, leaving car aficionados either hungry for speed or branded "enemy of the environment."

Ford Philippines recently held a challenge for media to drive the new Focus TDCi hatchback with both the promise of speed and fuel efficiency of a small car. They invited a select group of media and customers to take the challenge with them. Their claim: the Ford Focus TDCi is the perfect marriage of speed and fuel efficiency.

THE CHALLENGE took participants to drive from day to night.

Using the Circle International Speedway as backdrop, the goal is to drive the Ford Focus TDCi from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. a 12-hour endurance challenge, both running your speed (most number of laps) and your fuel efficiency (amount of fuel consumed). It was a test of nerves, patience, and the calm collected ability to apply including tire and driver changes. Race car drivers were on hand to guide the teams and serve as safety marshalls. At exactly 8 a.m. the green flag was dropped by Ford's AVP for Communications Anita Valdes-Sycip, Ph.D.

Cars were put to normal conditions, the usual tracks for fuel economy challenges were foregone: aircon running and windows rolled off from tempering, nothing was removed from the vehicle, fresh, open tires etc. The pressure is on the human environmental spirit and to challenge the vehicle to race those, it was just lifted up to the limits.

Ironically, organizers thought that the participants would race for the most 60-80kph which is said to be the open range to be fuel efficient, but everybody ended up driving at 120-150kph, demonstrating the technical nature of the track like race car drivers.

At 5:30 p.m., the track was lit and the studs on/off head lamps went off. The challenge became more intense because it was the track mood at night. It created excitement, as the track became a different sets altogether. At 6 p.m. the checkered flag went down with the teams clocking more than 100 laps.

To compare for the challenge winners, the number of laps and fuel mileage were taken into consideration. The winner topped 104 laps and consumed 40.6 litres of fuel, driving at the speed of over 100 kph. As the challenge took participants to drive from day to night, it also was able to show how the Ford Focus TDCi lets you drive with both speed and fuel efficiency in the process, disproving the perception that speed and fuel efficiency is so different in night and day.

Safe and visible

From page B1-1

bulbs as well, anything over 100 watts will cause increased glare for oncoming traffic. Handle them responsibly and personally cause accidents. It will also severely diminish your car's battery life if your alternator is unable to deliver enough amperes to it as you can see some designed for such powerful headlamp bulbs. There is a reason these bulbs are standard OPPOSED USE ONLY / CAN NEVER BE USED ON A PUBLIC ROAD POINT.

5 **HB3 vs cost headlamp assemblies.** Ideally, lowest headlamp assemblies retrofitted into existing cars should only be installed in OEM headlight assemblies with a poly-reflector/shield lenses. These are the lenses that look like insects' eyes on cars, reflect the beam in linearly European cars and even in many market cars such as the Toyota Fortuner, Mitsubishi Montero Sport and a variety of compact-SUV's. Style-oriented lenses are also so prepared because the light rays from which come are headlamp bulbs. Retrofit kits installed in headlamp assemblies with non OEM poly-reflector/shield lenses typically reduce the overall effectiveness of various gas headlamp bulbs, whether halo or projector bulbs, as much as 50 percent. Halos as high as 6000 lumens, which is almost pure white but with a tinge of yellow, could although considerably improve long and heavy cars is compromised when compared to the recommended halo range.

6 **Check your rear brake lamps.** The rear brake lamps typically use a dual-filament bulb. One filament is solely just enough to allow people to see your rear end while following you in traffic and brightens up when you step on your brake pedal, alerting the person following you that you are braking / stopping. Ask a friend to get in the car, turn on the lights and step on the brake pedal so you can check the condition of the rear lights and brake lamps. Some LED replacement electronics fail to tell the correct shudder connect bulbs as rules them improperly, causing the brake lamp bulbs not to brighten up when braking, or worse, not to turn on at all, causing a rear-end accident. Don't forget to also check the third-brake lamp. If your car does not have one installed, it is highly recommended to retrofit a universal third-brake lamp from companies such as Bosch and Hella, available in most supply stores. A lot of modern cars also have what is called a wire fog lamp, a bright beam of red light that is highly visible despite adverse weather conditions. European cars have them as standard, so if you are privileged enough to own one, refer them as European-bred vehicles.

7 **Check/replace your wipers.** Repair often forget to check and replace their windshield wipers, including only that they are in poor condition when the rain comes. Check them especially during the very hot and dry summer months. Try to keep the rubber fresh and soft, soak a lowly cloth with some silicon oil then gently wipe it on the wipers to rejuvenate the rubber. This should help it last longer and keep from drying up, cracking and eventually disintegrating when you least expect it. If there are more than 4 years old, replace them already with good quality brand wipers blades.

8 **Drive carefully.** When it is raining hard, drive carefully. That doesn't necessarily mean drive slowly. Driving slowly in itself increases your time exposed to danger, you ideally want to get off the road as quickly as possible and park your vehicle safely with you equally safe in shelter. Drive as fast as conditions allow, but not too fast that your senses and your brain cannot keep up with your speed.

Two from Chevy: The Diesel Cruze and 2011 Spark

THE GREENEST Cruze, General Motors' first new global product to hit the market after emerging from government-sponsored bankruptcy is the Sedan it came in 2009, is survived by many as the American automaker's most successful entry in the compact car segment in years. The 2013 Cruze was a great start for the new GM as it heralded a refreshed, competitive lineup of well-priced models bearing the Gold Bowtie badge, which remains GM's biggest name known brand.

But when the Cruze won the 2010-2011 Philippine Car of the Year Award, I was puzzled because, despite its array of exterior features, I found the Cruze to be underpowered due to its body weight. This was an impression after test-driving the top-of-the-line Cruze 1.8 LTZ/LTO,888.1 with 6-speed automatic transmission (AT) and the same 1.8-liter DOHC 140 ps 4-cylinder engine as in the lower-priced variants. Driving the Cruze CDIF (Chevy Motorsports Performance Street Edition) prepped by BBR Distance Race Engineering, I didn't feel the added more like body kit and other upgrades just made the car heavier.

Then The Consumer Car Company, Inc. (TCCCI), the import and distributor of Chevrolet in the Philippines, sent me for the 4-cylinder 2.0-liter, 16-valve, DOHC, 16-valve, 4-cylinder 2.0-liter, 16-valve, 4-cylinder DOHC engine derived from the Chevy Aveo is disappointing. Rated at 86.5 hp and 130 Nm max torque and mated to a 5-speed manual transaxle, the Cruze 2.0 diesel proved that it cannot test the limits of the rather competent chassis. The Spark certainly won't fight it, then.

But then the Spark was not built for fast highway driving. Its selling points are its economical fuel consumption and its P598,000.00 sticker. Its sassy looks and city-friendly size make it attractive to young urbanites buying their first car (incidentally it's easy to know that all Chevys, from the largest (the Suburban) to the smallest (the Spark) are covered by TCCCI).

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Aida Arcilla-Mendoza

ON THE ROAD

EARLY PEAK

The torque of the diesel Cruze peaks much earlier than its 4500 rpm redline which turns that with its 60-liter fuel tank, the economy numbers into a range of over 900 kilometers. Even at low speeds, the perkiness of the diesel powers is notably profitable. Although the diesel engine gets many others fired up, it quiets down very soon afterward. For fast expressways and inner roads, some city driving, the diesel Cruze is definitely the best of the five variants we've tried.

Add to this superior performance the array of convenient and safety features also found as standard equipment in the petrol LT A-T Cruze: dual front and side-impact airbags, antilock stability and traction control, disc brakes on all four 17-inch alloy wheels, ABS with electronic brake force distribution, reverse assist sensors, a CD/MP3 player with six speakers and steering wheel-mounted audio controls, power-folding side view mirrors, rain-sensing wipers, front step floor lights, leather seats, etc.

Although the diesel variant is the most expensive Cruze at P1,128,888, the high price is offset by the low price of diesel fuel compared to gasoline, which is from five to 8 pesos less per liter.

Meanwhile, the total revamp of the Chevy Spark ensures shorter GM's commitment to building cars for all markets. Unveiled at the 2010 Geneva Motor Show, the all-new Spark was built by GM Daewoo in South Korea on a global platform designed to withstand road conditions all over the world. The first Spark, known as the Daewoo Matiz, was copied so closely by Chery of China as the Chery QQ that several body panels were interchangeable.

Under other budget measures, the new Spark has all-power features, keyless entry with anti-theft alarm, roof rails, a rear spoiler and glass hatch wipes. There are enough cubbyholes and compartments for documents and loose items, but the 1.2-liter, 16-valve, 4-cylinder DOHC engine derived from the Chevy Aveo is disappointing. Rated at 86.5 hp and 130 Nm max torque and mated to a 5-speed manual transaxle, the Cruze 2.0 diesel proved that it cannot test the limits of the rather competent chassis. The Spark certainly won't fight it, then.

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THE EYE-CATCHING 2011 Chevy Spark, a stylish little hatchback.

Nissan Offers S.O.S. to Customers for Rainy Season

'We Love Your Nissan' service campaign is back

In line with its commitment to provide excellent customer satisfaction, product quality and total safety, especially during the rainy season, Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc. (NMPI) is bringing back its service campaign dubbed 'We Love Your Nissan.' The promo, which will run until August 2011, is now made even better with the introduction of "S.O.S. (Stress Optimum Savings)" that provides its customers practical and assured all-inclusive repair prices.

For every service transaction of any NMPI vehicle worth P777, customers will get a coupon which they can use to avail various Nissan premium items at a reduced price of P777. Customers can save as much as P1,000 on items including high-tech chassis engine cleaner, injector cleaner, pre-filter of synthetic oil, Nissan golf umbrella, one-hour service labor and carwash. What's more, they will also get a raffle stub that will give them a chance to win one of seven Nissan Xtrail will be given away.

"We brought back the 'We Love Your Nissan' campaign in time for the rainy season to help our customers ensure that their vehicles are running in top condition. We are all aware that wet and slippery roads may lead to common road accidents, so we hope to encourage every unit to future their cars to check and have it serviced before going out," said Jesus Arranz, NMPI Vice President for Sales and Parts, Body, Lease and.

The 'We Love Your Nissan' campaign started during a Nissan Caravan in Dagupan on Sunday, 12 June 2011. Before being introduced as a service promo last year, Love used the campaign name to market customized accessories of genuine parts and services from authorized dealers.

"Some motorists think that the store at Evangelista is less than vehicles to a breakdown shop. However, this impression does not always mean best value for money. At every Nissan dealer, we put emphasis in providing customers needs and expectations through skilled Nissan factory-trained technicians, high-quality Nissan Genuine Parts, updated technical information and advanced equipment and tools," Love said.

NMPI's S.O.S. promo is available at all Nissan Manila and provincial Nissan dealerships. For more information, visit www.nissan.com.ph, or request an app of the Nissan dealership nationwide.

Auto firms report slow growth in first 4 months

By Charles Bolaso

ALMOST THREE months since Japan suffered a 9.0 magnitude earthquake, tsunami, and a near nuclear disaster, inventories of crucial car supplies—from computer chips to paint pigments—are still not enough as Japanese factories that make them are not yet running at full capacity.

This has made quite an impact on the auto industry as car sales grew just 1.3 percent in the first five months to 89,422 units, from 88,270 units in the same period last year.

According to Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi)—whose members are mostly Japanese subsidiaries—sales in May alone plunged by 11 percent to 16,913 units, from the previous month's 12,200 units.

Campi president Elmberly Lee attributed the drop in sales from the dismissal phase that manufacturers created auto parts and components as well as the experts need in transporting these parts to the country.

To cope with this development, local automakers were forced to cut production to conserve what few parts in their inventory has come supply from Japan automakers.

Opposite

The Campi result is different from the report released by the Association of Vehicle Importers and Distributors Inc. (Aaid) whose members are non-Japanese automakers.

Aaid listed a 4 percent growth from a year ago.

"The 4 percent growth in AVID's sales in May against total industry's decline demonstrate the strategic advantages of our global supply platforms and local management strategies to mitigate the risks of external crisis like Japan's disaster and customers value-added economic environment. We remain positive about the economy outlook for the year ahead and the resiliency of the domestic market to support our sales goals," said Aaid president Hanks N. Ibero. Ayuda, who is also president and CEO of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.

While Aaid sold a total of 1,992 units in May, Toyota brings sales in the first five months of the year to 43,668 units.

In terms of market share, Aaid accounts for 15 percent of the total market for May.

Still on top

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. is still on top after selling 21,308 units in the first five months capping 39.4 percent share of the market.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., which claimed second place with sales reaching 11,062 units in market share of 20.6 percent, posted heavy losses in May after registering 1,117 units sold, slightly ahead of what personnel Isuzu Tuscon's 1,047 units sold in May.

Ken Group member Hyundai Asia Resource Inc. (Hari), which posted a 3-percent sales growth of 6,862 units in the first five months of the year, sold 1,532 units in May (ahead of Honda Cars Philippines' figure of 1,115 units sold in May).

Lee said is expect the slow growth to last until June but hopes that by July sales would slowly recover.

Campi projected a sales growth of 4-5 percent for the industry this year.

AUDABTY/Aaid

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No stopping Audi at Le Mans

LE MANS, France—Audi overcame two crashes to hold off pressure from a charging Peugeot and win the 24 Hours of Le Mans on Sunday.

Andre Lotterer, Marcel Fassler and Benoit Treluyer drove the Audi No. 2 to victory, giving the German manufacturer a 13th title at Le Mans.

Audi's record now tells a story of possession of second place for most victories at the world's most famous endurance race. Porsche holds the record with 16 titles. Ferrari dropped to third with nine.

Audi No. 2 completed 355 laps in 24 hours, leading the Peugeot No. 9 driven by Simon Pagenaud, Pedro Lamy and Sebastien Bourdais by 13.854 seconds.

"It's absolutely fantastic to win like this," said Treluyer, who started the race on pole. "You need good equipment to have a great victory. With Peugeot, we had rivals who were really strong."

Stephane Sarrazin, Franck Montagny and Nicolas Minassian finished third in their Peugeot No. 8, two laps back.

Peugeot No. 7 driven by Marc Gene, Sebastien Davidson and Alexander Wurz came in fourth, four laps off the pace.

Audi took the top three spots last year with its R15 model, while no Peugeot was able to finish the race. The German manufacturer has enjoyed a successful transition at Le Mans with its new R18 model.

The climbing for 13th victory in 33 years Audi has added another impressive chapter to its success story at the Le Mans 24 Hours. After the first success of a TDI engine in 2006, the first triumph of a diesel-powered car in 2008 and then engineers with sensible carbon geometry in 2010, last year Audi again triumphed with innovative technology.

"Audi ultra technology has passed an extreme acid test this weekend," said Head of Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich after the car had crossed the finish line. "If you pursue new paths this always involves a risk. But the risk has absolutely paid off. The Audi R18 TDI was in a class of its own at Le Mans 2011. Particularly due to the two extremely serious accidents this has been the most difficult Le Mans race for us in an emotional sense so far. That our team managed to keep the strong competition at bay for 24 hours with just one car is almost unbelievable. Everyone at Audi can be proud of this triumph. However, the sense that Allan McNish and Mike Rockenfeller cannot call Dindo Capello with them very much as well is at least as important as that of the tenth Audi victory."

The Peugeots No. 7 and No. 9 had overtaken the Audi No. 2 overnight but crashes of the Lola Toyota No. 13 and Ferrari No. 59 brought out the safety car in the 11th and 14th hours and helped the Audi make up ground.

In the 19th hour, Lotterer shaded the fastest lap in 3 minutes, 35.289 seconds on the 13.6-kilometer circuit to build a significant lead.

Audi No. 2 managed to adapt to changing conditions when rain started in the 21st hour, forcing drivers to switch tyres.

Peugeot No. 9 was slower than Audi No. 2, but the French manufacturer had a strategy lateral around the leaves had consumption of its cars.

Although Peugeot No. 9 made only 28 pit stops compared to 31 for the Audi No. 2, the speed differential was significant enough to give victory to the German manufacturer.

Lotterer and Treluyer made their last pit stops at the same time, but Audi No. 2 came out of the pits ahead of Peugeot No. 9 to keep the lead.

"We were beaten by a competitor stronger than us," Bourdais told the event's website. "Audi has developed a highly reliable and fast car. We have to work on reliability. The objective is

MEMBERS of the Audi team and fans celebrate another Le Mans victory. AFP/EPA

FRENCH Benoit Treluyer flashes the No. 1 sign as he celebrates on the podium. AFP

DRIVER Allan McNish of Scotland is helped out of Audi No. 2 after a crash. AFP/EPA

bumped by the Ferrari and slid off the track in darkness to smash into a guardrail, barring the deployment of the safety car for the second time in the race.

The German driver was able to get out of the cockpit on his own before the wrecked car caught fire. He picked up cuts and grazes in the accident but was otherwise unhurt.

Audi also lost a car when Allan McNish's Audi No. 3 collided with a Ferrari, barely 50 minutes after the start.

McNish was unhurt and walked away from the crash. The Scottish driver was taken to a medical center as a precaution and then to a hospital for tests/checks.

A total of 56 cars started the 79th edition of the French endurance race, but 28 did not finish. With wire reports

BENOIT Treluyer of France, Andre Lotterer of Germany and Marcel Fassler of Switzerland stand atop the Audi R18 TDI number 1 after winning the race.

Dramatic finish pushes Button to the podium

MONTREAL—JENSE started out as one of former Brawn's worst days as a driver seemed later behind in the Britain reserved one of Formula One's great charges in steal victory from Sebastian Vettel at the Canadian Grand Prix yesterday.

A gloomy rainy day took a more miserable inch for McLaren when Button squeezed room more Lewis Hamilton into the wall and out of the race after just eight laps. It can in with Button's Spanish double world champion Fernando Alonso, six rides in the pit lane—five regular stops and one drive through penalty—added to a disastrous afternoon for the 31-year-old Briton before launching into what will be go down as one of the sport's most dramatic comebacks.

Hamilton was through the field after being left at the back of the pack. Button stalled Vettel over the closing laps finally pressuring the German into an uncharacteristic mistake and pressing when his rival's Red Bull skidded wide.

"Eventually on the last lap I was chasing down Seb, he was little wide on the wet part of the circuit and I was able to take the opportunity and take the win," a beaming Button told reporters. "It was one of those grand prix where you are nowhere and then you are somewhere, then you're nowhere again and then somewhere. "Fighting your way through the field is almost as good as winning a race, 'he we always say, the last lap is the important one as he leading and I was leading half of it."

Button was quick to classify his 18th career win and first in North America as his greatest and few of those who sat through an abbreviated race that included a two hour delay would disagree. "Amazing day I don't know what to say," said Button. "It's definitely my best race ... I'll remember this for a long time. To be on the podium is a great reception at result.

JENSON Button of Britain holds the Canadian GP trophy aloft.

www.audi.ph

America's Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
"TOP SAFETY PICKs for 2011 & 2010"

Audi A3
Audi A4
Audi Q5

The renowned Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) in the USA has awarded the Audi Q5, A4 and Audi A3 models its 2011 TOP SAFETY PICK rating. These models achieved the highest safety recognition granted by the influential IIHS in high-speed front and side crash tests, a rollover test, plus evaluations of seat/head restraints for protection against neck injuries in rear impacts and electronic stability control.

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THE TOYOTA Alphard has an electric sunroof for its front and second row seats.

THE Foton MPX is indeed a member of a strategically designed, value-for-money vehicle.

By Alvin Uy

SUMMER'S GONE and it's back-to-school season again and with a smallest of long holidays (an-et-seven weekends in distant memory, Inquirer Motoring takes a look at several passenger vans and minivans from the premium segment to the entry-level commuter shuttles for those who either have growing families or even growing enterprises that are in the market for a passenger van.

Three from Toyota: Alphard, Previa and Hiace

With a price tag just a few thousand pesos below the 3 million peso mark, Toyota offers the only Japanese-made van in the premium segment, aside from its Previa model. Popular in other Asian markets, it comes with a 2.5-liter and 3.4-liter gas engine variants with an added premium on the pearl white color. With its plush interiors and spacious cabin, it is no wonder this minivan took the 2010-2011 Car of the Year awards (COY) as the best premium van and MPV of the year.

Introduced in the local market last August, the most powerful variant is equipped with a 3.5 liter, 24-valve DOHC Dual VVT-i engine and matched with a 6-speed sequential transmission that gives out a maximum output of 275Ps at 6,200 rpm and 340Nm of torque at 4,700 rpm. The 7-seater has an electric sunroof for its front and second row seats. Other goodies like a high-end audio system, Features an NOT ceiling mounted Navigation system, power sunvisors not only for visors but for sliding and hatch doors as well as power seats makes it the best in class. Closely behind it is its cousin Previa, with stylish looks and matching comfortable cabin and interior features. Its main disadvantage is its slightly smaller 7-seater a better value proposition than the Alphard.

If the Alphard is the Alpha male among premium vans, when it comes to commuter vans, Toyota Hiace is probably the most popular nameplate in this country. Ergonomically, nothing much has changed over the years. Reserved in its yet reliable 2.5 liter turbo diesel engine can propel the trusty 11-seater van in and out of urban traffic as well as offer a decent cruising speed for a quick out-of-town family getaway. With a nice dual air conditioning system and various configurations, it is considered an overall good performer for either a large family commuter or a business shuttle van.

Hyundai Grand Starex: As grand as they can come

When we think about Hyundai's Starex, we normally think about the regular Grand Starex variant. The Hyundai Starex van came into the local automotive scene in the late 1990s when the first generation Starex vans were being brought into this market. By 2001, with the official launch of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (Hari), the country's distributor for Hyundai vehicles, saw the van quickly become an flagship model. After three years, the Starex GRS model came with a new engine, using its 2nd generation CRDi (Common Rail Direct Injection) diesel engine in 2004. After another three years, Hari unveiled its third generation model called Grand Starex with

Dad's diamond in the rough

5 reasons the Strada is boosting its category

HORSE THAT'S BORN CHEAP: That it's a handsome pickup is just half the story. There's the power (with the VGT) and the value (thirty colors to the Envy/CAR dossier and the rest).

Test and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

WHEN A RIDER won his eighth race this year, you can very well say the steely look of determination on his game face.

And what sort of price would he vouch the effort for the man of the house? Here's a hint: Something with eight cylinders, engine. For some chefs, a simple set that can take him and his family from this to that is enough of a reward for all the hard days and nights.

But we're not talking about a simple car here, and we're not talking about a simple dad, either. We're talking of daddies who have a life outside of work, say a farm or an outdoor hobby that he and his family "escape" to during the weekends and holidays. And we're talking of dad? Well, an SUV isn't really a farm "animal," or so to speak. It can't take a 10-foot-tall tree sapling on its back. And when things get rough out there outside of the safe environs of the city, the SUV would need to have its all (about the size of this article would normally be in its natural element.

For the dad who wants to replace an ill-being thing his family used over the family doggie, the Strada 2.5 VGT would seem to have it all. Of course

Something for Dad

SO IT'S Father's Day again this weekend and for the first time in my life, my Dad actually told me his wish list of gifts.

The first set was totally doable, asking merely for a variety of gadgets and accessories for his iPad2. It's amazing how a 60-something can bend how to master such a technologically advanced gadget.

For someone who is a technophobe, it shows that through those determination, anything is possible. Its keyboard dock, charger and a case-cum-place that can store his beloved iPad2, mobile phone, car's and keys are my gifts for him on Father's Day.

His next set of wish list is much more complicated and ill. But point to my life, downright impossible. My Dad is a frugal person, very practical and no-nonsense. He appreciates and respects the finer things in life, but he will never spend on such things, especially for himself. That's how he is I guess. Makes me wonder where I got my penchant set of traits?

So as always, we were talking about the newest Inked Indeed and most luxurious ever car, just weekend. While I prefer to drive about sensing the latest Dodge-era muted performance cars such as the Porsche 911 GT3 RS and such the new 4.0 litre V8 4x engine, my Dad was swooning over the latest Audi A8 And Mercedes-Benz E-Class. He loves these big luxo-barges, perhaps because as his youth, right after the last world war, the Philippines will heavily influenced by America. he'd see a lot of the big Buicks and Cadillacs driven by the elite during the 50's and 60's and probably he'll an indelible impression, a dream to aspire to, a goal to achieve. Later on, the Mercedes-Benz and car driven by the new and affluent breed of Manila after the end of Martial Law reminded him of his desire to own a luxo-barge. Many years later, Boris Brought and images are like engine flashbacks which pop into his very busy mind in room to his deep working and years relaxing.

But they say the memories of yesterday is always sweeter than it actually ever was and to my Dad can't bring himself to buy a (luxo) car now. The harsh memories of the Asian financial crisis of 1997 are still fresh in our Dad's mind, so now that he's older and wiser than from 14 years ago, prudence, temperance and fortitude weigh heavily on his conscience and his mind. Frank goodness for that as there's only room for one high temperature, short-term-fix-type member in each family which happens to be me in our household.

But what's how I am, and that, thankfully is how my Dad is. Our inherent differences have helped us to live much more fully, more truly through each other, complementing each other's strengths. My Dad owns, and I spend his money on my iPhone, iPad2 to play.

Seriously, whenever I bring home a tool unit, my Dad's eyes light up like a child's on Christmas morning, evened to be driven around in whatever it at I have for the weekend, come to if it's then a luxury brand like Audi, BMW, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche. I look at the world of wage level improvements to the car, and my Dad's comments on the space, refinement, ease-of-use and overall comfort. Things I'm too busy to notice as I'm speeding down every deserted stretch of road I find, even in night ahead, but I'm in the driver and month day front excitement / fear of the thrashing look of wide-eyed machines are daily pursuit on-of-a-car.

So now I have a new goal in my life. Maybe it won't come into fruition this year, or next, or perhaps not for another 10-20 years. Hopefully my Dad will still be around as he lives a very healthy lifestyle, has no vices and I'm finally beginning to see a trend. I hope one day that I can be the one to buy him a new, luxury car to two. But it has to be both refined and super-fast, sober-stately on the road, but a real tarmac terrorist as well. An Audi S6 / BMW M or Mercedes AMG will hopefully be in the cards in our future. How much is the grass (green) on your side?

SKID MARKS

Ricardo Sonora

Back to School Ad-VAN-tage

Four-page 66-1

improvements by UK Ron Asmi Co.

Aside from the MPV, was the Versa Van is a no-frills basic passenger van intended for either commercial or private use. Its robust four-cylinder CRDI turbo-diesel engine seems to have enough horsepower for the stated load capacity and then some. It recently gained much attention since it was a cost effective buy a popular panel van in a cable price and its affordable seat and basic package offers excellent value specially for fleet and commercial purposes.

Ford E-150: Power and flexibility in one big package

The E-150 Club Wagon's 4.6-litre V8 gas engine is matched with a 4-Speed automatic transmission with overdrive that produces 225 horsepower but more than that is a free and capable. Ford's Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) can run on E85 (85 percent ethanol) 15 percent gasoline) or on straight gasoline, or any combination of the two, giving it the versatility on the pump and on power on the pedal. To center side ship-from option offers full one comfort for seating up to seven passengers, and all rear bench seats have centre position. 3-point, seat-integrated safety belts what are easy to remove and re-install with its self-latching system. Its front cup-cum-clean front console storage and seat reshaped with a comfortable new design, the new Front Quad Captain's chairs comes with its very power driver's seat and are built for all-day support.

The Advance Trac system with ESC (Electronic Stability Control) works in conjunction with the new ABS, traction control and new control wheels automatically determines when and how to apply individual brakes and needed to engine power to help keep all four wheels firmly planted on the road. This is the only stability control system that is equipped with gyroscopic sensors that measure both vehicle roll and turning rates. When the van is moving or cornering too quickly, the ESC applies brake pressure and reduces engine power to help keep the van under control. It is also equipped with a tire pressure monitor to ensure even tire pressure at all times. One can travel in luxury and safety with its leather trimmed seats and premium mobile media entertainment system packaged in a large cocoon of comfort and power.

Nissan Urvan
The Urban Advantage

About four years ago, Eastwind Motors Corporation introduced the "Urban Ua Business" (EVERE) program. It was an innovative Entrepreneurship Corporate Social Responsibility program that chose

URBAN advantage with the Urvan

to use up vehicle marketing and promotions targeting entrepreneurship among the economically active OFW and entrepreneurial market. Offering a myriad of exciting configurations and platforms, the Urvan has 12, 15, 18 and even 21-seater configurations as well as cargo and ambulance van configurations to match any commercial and even personal passenger requirements. Its powerful 2.7 liter diesel engine is flexible and robust to handle most applications that has the robot panel's for highway cruising and stop-and-go urban traffic acceleration. Its dual-air conditioning system allows it to be a versatile and comfortable shuttle and executive van.

The new Strada now packs a PGT engine so you can sit maximum efficiency anytime, anywhere. Imagine easy, city driving with the Strada GLX V 4x2. What the new Automatic Transmission that makes the drive from work easier enjoyable, without feeling weighed down by traffic. Weekend road trips? Take the Strada GLS Sport V 4x4 with you. It gives optimized traction so you're ready for any road condition, even rough roads. No matter where you go, there's power at your disposal with Mitsubishi Strada GLX V 4x2 and GLS Sport V 4x4.

Mitsubishi Motors
Drivemark

Devil and the Deep Blue Sea

320d Performance brings out the Mr. Hyde in BMW's mild-mannered sedan

Text and photos by Jason K. Ang

A BMW review is not the first thing (or second, or third) that comes to mind when we imagine a car running straight from the devil's lair. Yet the 320d that we lifted out from the Gaisano Capital dealership looked distinctly sinister. For one, it was painted a deep, dark, blue-tinted, bruise-like hue, or as we liked to think of it, the Deep Blue Sea. A pair of racing stripes highlights the car's bodies on each side—a dark silver (source: us. Write) line underscoring the fender and window frames.

Adding more helpings of menacing are the blacked-out kidney grilles and the liberal application of carbon fiber. The wing mirrors are cloaked in the material, and the boot spoiler are made from carbon as well. There's a delicious red spoiler, perfect for balancing the silver and white theme. All of these pieces are of course genuine carbon fiber, not mere stickers.

Then there are the wheels: enormous 19-inch aluminum double-spoke numbers that wouldn't look small on a 7 Series. On the 320d, dwarfed by 19-inches Pirellis, the car's borrower looks like it's wearing a pair of jewelry wheels. They measure upgraded brake discs with yellow calipers. The car we drove had the Performance-sport suspension that leaves the vehicle for an extra measure of stability and handling.

There are two schools of thought when it comes to vehicle modifications: one is to customize a vehicle to your heart's desire, and the other is to leave it the hell alone. The difference is magnified when it comes to luxury cars, who modify what is already a high-performance vehicle, and why spend more on an already expensive car?

What we can say is that we just understand is that the more expensive the vehicle, the more it opens itself up to customization. A Proton would be able to easily swallow up several thousands times the options available to a Audi, say, while pushing the aftermarket performance ever higher.

The 320d Performance is a fine car to get off the easy ramp, leaving few items untouched. The interior also gets a luxury makeover. The original metallic decorative pieces are swapped out for carbon pieces. The main console covering the dashboard and surrounding the driver knob look like the automotive equivalent of dark chocolate-fudge-enough to eat. The only pieces missing were the sport seats, which look like they were lifted from a DTM race car.

In the car looks like the Devil Incarnate, how's it perform like it looks? What a wonderful choice the 320d is that it can play the role of solid mannered family sedan by day and night and it won't complain. There's tons of the smiling-friendly ambiance in other wildly-decked out sedans like Subaru Impreza STI comes to mind. There's just a louder rumble to the engine, a reminder that Dude, I'm ready. Just give the word.

And when you do give the word, via your right foot, the car obliges nicely. Six-manual selects to complete methods the engine getting some go-faster parts as well. At the heart of the 320d Performance is a power kit that ups the power and torque of the already formidable engine. Power goes up from 143 hp to 197 hp, and there's an additional 40 Nm on top. Acceleration runs to 100 km/h drops by... wait for it, 0.3 seconds. A very impressive symbiosis, that. Still, when does matter is that it feels faster. As a bonus, the engine does sound more gutsy. The best part is that fuel efficiency and emissions remain the same.

The engine just passes on a heartbeat of torque. Seven are open. Both the gearshift is figure inside the car easily scythes through traffic with the agility of a pure sports car. The enlarged brake discs, high-performance calipers, and sticky Pirelli tires give extra confidence.

The 3 Series has some of the best steering feedback of any car, even mind that it's a four-door sedan. There's an extra bit of tingle filtering to your fingertips, courtesy of the racing-type steering wheel wrapped in grippy Alcantara fabric. You're no doubt fond of Formula One steering wheel costing tens of thousands of dollars, so you won't be shocked at the price tag for this one.

We were not surprised to find that ride comfort is still quite acceptable. The rear feels firmer and there's some stumble when on the move, but bobs and bumps are still well-tempered.

Is this a (young) dad's perfect car? No doubt. But a two-door body style would do a better job of managing his ego, but for the perfect balance of having space for the family and going like the Devil when alone, the 320d Performance pushes all the right buttons.

So what price Performance? Like the saying goes: "If you have to ask..." Well, we did have to ask, so here goes. Be ready to write a check for P1,252,234. Standard 320d are included. (Check out the sidebar for the complete parts list.) With all the upgrades, the 320d Performance shoots up into the midsize European sedan category. There are quite a few options there, some with excellent diesel engines as well. If festy-sentimental modification and performance parts are your desire, as well as a feel closer to that of a pure sports car, the 320d Performance fits the bill quite nicely.

THE 320d sedan is powered by gorgeously gunmetal-coloured carbon fiber trim.

Test drive

CARBON fiber dress-right: Trunk lid spoiler is discreet and durable.

CARBON: carbon fiber surrounds the Xenon round-shade.

CARBON fiber shell makes for one cool car where the backside is useful as well.

320d Performance parts:

BMW Performance Power Kit	P220,213
BMW Performance Sports Suspension	P138,217.17
BMW Performance Steering Wheel	P148,170.00
Brake: F & R	P258,806.00
BMW Performance Hood Bulge	P11,302.50
BMW Performance Aluminum Pedal Sport Design - Matte	P11,302.14
BMW Performance Aero Kit	P127,891.00
BMW Performance Sport Seat set	P105,131.25
BMW Performance Alcantara	P149,234
BMW Exterior system	P11,134.15
Aluminum Seat rail	P7,232.85
Interior trim carbon	P13,524.00

HUGE 19-inch alloys. Pirelli P Zeros, carbon spoilers and blacked-out grilles give the 320d's dark at diabolical.

Mercedes-Benz Star Collection

YEAR/MODEL	PRICE	MILEAGE
2011 B 200	Diamond White	8,000 kms
2011 B 180	Night Black	1,700 kms
2011 B 180	Cashmere Beige	1,800 kms
2011 C 180 CGI Avantgarde	Iridium White	1,000 kms
2011 C 180 CGI Avantgarde	Iridium White	1,000 kms
2011 C 180 CGI Avantgarde	Cashmere Beige	1,000 kms
2011 C 200 CGI Avantgarde	Cashmere Beige	3,000 kms
2011 C 200 CGI Sport	Cashmere Beige	3,000 kms
2011 C 200 CGI Sport	Iridium White	3,000 kms
2011 C 200 CGI Sport	Black	3,000 kms
2011 C 200 CGI Elegance	Night Black	3,000 kms
2011 C 180 CGI Avantgarde	Indigo Blue Metallic	3,000 kms
2011 C 180 CGI Avantgarde	Cashmere Beige	3,000 kms
2011 C 180 CGI Avantgarde	Iridium White	3,000 kms
2011 C 200

LIFESTYLE Parenting

My 'normal' two-person family

My daughter sometimes asks me why her father and I never got married, and why all her classmates have dads who live with them. There are never any easy answers

By Erica Paredes
Contributor

I WOULDN'T say that 24 years old is too young to get pregnant. In fact, my mother was only 22 when she had me, and most of my friends my age have parents who had them in their early 20s. I had a job, I was living on my own—no problem, right?

Wrong! At the time, I was working in a magazine, getting paid entry-level wages, barely getting by in the apartment I shared with my boyfriend. We'd been wanting to move into, partying like a rock star, riding all the wrong kind, hanging out with all the wrong people, smoking heavily, and living life like any early 20-something with newfound freedom would. I was in no way prepared or in a position to bring another life into this world. I could barely even take care of myself!

Now, seven years later, I'm ready to look back at my preparedness, and it's all a blur. My daughter is celebrating her seventh birthday in a few days, and I am still in awe and utterly amazed at myself for getting this far without any permanent dislikings to her or myself. I know I'm not the first, nor the only single mother struggling to raise her child in the best way I possibly can, but I can only speak for myself, and my own experience. It's not easy, and at times can actually be completely frustrating, or seriously a big round of applause to every single one of you out there.

In a box

When I took Amanda home from the hospital, I slept in my mom's bed for a week, with my baby sleeping snug in a box that used to house a DVD player. It was hard waking up every hour to feed her and change her, and then get up again right when I was drifting off to sleep.

I clearly remember the first time I spent the night with her on my own with no mom and papa. It was only in our second week home, and I thought I was ready. Boy, was I in for a rude awakening reality check. I learned two things that night: Your baby isn't always cute, and she can be the biggest source of stress and frustration you will ever encounter in your life!

I was up all night trying to get her to sleep. Feeling inadequate became I couldn't, and before I knew it, baby and I were both crying. I remember looking up and asking God why he allowed me to take on such a huge challenge!

Years later, I still find myself asking that same question, mostly on days when I feel like there is just too much on my plate, when just looking at it makes me too tired to even lift my butt to take my first step.

What I didn't tell you before, though, is that God always gave me an answer, and over and over it was this: "Because even if you think that she was sent here for you to take care of her and somehow, she is, in turn, taking care of and saving you. She's making you a better person, a more responsible, caring person who now wants to make the world a better place for someone else."

Do your best

Who, me? Moi "I can drink anyone under the table" I will run, by the way) want to carve about committing other than herself? My daughter sometimes asks me why her father and I never got married, and why all her classmates have dads who live with them.

There are never any easy answers that you can give someone who is still learning her multiplication tables, but at the end of the day you kind of just do your best to be honest, for age-appropriate. I always just tell her that as family in the same. But there aren't always two parents raising a child, sometimes one parent passes away, or leaves, or it just doesn't work out, and even that sometimes both parents might

FREEPORT Boss, Andrew Gao, Pulo del Rosario, DFA Honor Class

VITTORIO Truss of De Rigo, official distributor of Police Eyewear Marco de Martin

ROCK Fries, Jia Gei Lee of Most Vision Center, Benjo Madrigal

KIKO Pao, winner of Police's Race to Glory

JAMIE "London Baby" de la Cruz

Chic eyewear for longest and sunniest days of the year

MMT Institute Jeremy Magsaka and wife Jenny N.

SUMMER MAY be gone but the sun is still shining and the outset is coming later and later. The 21st of June, in fact, is expected to be "the longest day of the year," dubitingo. So don't leave your sunglasses out of your sight.

To help you do that, palanggas is the latest line of hip and totally cool-looking police eyewear by iconic "blue lens" had everyone raving during its launch in that success story, Seventh High, recently.

The launch culminated with Shuaibe's panty-pack posing women Doris Police Eyewear In sensation al of the opera hour sipping Your Blue powered by **PHOTOCHROMIC** cocktails.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcuedo

Photos by Alex Nick Hogue

Visible was Michelle Stone, Bruno Mars' friend and sexy dancer "Gemilan Bautista," who partied at Seventh High for a whole week while in town; Allanon Ky; real estate William and Joy Lee of Ideal Vision Center; and entertainment, marketing communications consultant Carmina Sanchez Jacobs.

The party ended with "beverage awards" given to two lucky guests who won their own pair of Police Eyewear; dubitingo.

Police is available in all major department stores and eyewear shops.

Mint shoes at Boracay

Summer time on uncrowded Boracay beach never fails to put that bronze glow on the bodies of guys and babes.

These female bonus go to the gym all year just to show off their perfect seasonal tanning moment on the holidays. What's more enviable is that they fall on the beach with their glitter shoes strong camouflaged about their heels.

Of course, they wear their Mint shoes as they tread the sands of Boracay.

Mint was on the beach again this year with the recent but happening "Splash," an awesome bash for Mint Design footwear at the luxury discovery Shangri-La resort.

Mint is designed by highly creative and energetic minds. Mint shoes are fresh, cool beach footwear.

"Made from 100-percent recyclable and biodegradable material, the shoes provide amazing breathability and comfort, besides being waterproof, hygienic and environmentally sand friendly, which is important, naturally, being that the launch happened on Station 1, where the sand area is considered the softest and most beautiful in all of Boracay," said Christine Napoleon, dubitingo.

Bikini-clad "nurses" in Mint footwear handed out vodka shots in test tubes and syringes; burgers, tacos and grilled seafood were consumed in decent proportion in the beer; and biceps and abdominals flexed and flashed as DJ Jordnain spun his magic beach tunes.

Among the fun-seeked were super couple Jimmy and Jenny Napoles, who were the perfect hosts, along with their smart and attractive children Christian, Christine and Jansen who is, in fact, one of the Mint Design partners; former Boracay resident Leslie Cruz (also one host and hosts on Forbidden days when his father was ambassador to Germany, England and Holland); photographer Sanders Klein; love couple Sharp Manaloto and Georgina Wilson, the always hot KC Montero; and hundreds of young, sexy Ginigs who partied as if it were spring break in Miami, would you believe, dubitingo.

MMT Institute Jeremy Magsaka and wife Jenny N.

HIGH Jocelyn Ramirez, Louie Cruz

CHARLES Tio

JUN Ferrera, Discovery Shores Boracay GM

KATE Sarmiento, Makela Chua

ROCKY Cha, Joanne Hilakhama, Jacqui and Jen Mendoza

OLIVIA Suarez, Bea de Juan, Erika Dizon

LORD Mallari, Carolina and Charles Phelan

ANN Barrozo, Kay Tiu Valdes

ERIC Tai, KC Montero

DJ Jordnain, Georgina Wilson

LISA Ong, Sandra Mike Rivera

VITTORIO and Rita Truss, Eugene del Favero

JOSE Horacio of Seventh High, Alfonso St. JD Bautista

LEADING the Canadian Pork Promotion at Marco Polo Plaza Cebu...MPPC general manager Hans Haun, executive chef Luke Gagnon, Canadian Ambassador Christopher Thornley

Gracious MPPC general manager Hans Haun and guest of honor, Canadian Ambassador Christopher Thornley, officially launched the affair with the ceremonial slicing of pork, palanggas.

Throughout the night, the Queen City's hottest tastemakers/jabbers from government, business, diplomacy and hospitality sectors were treated to an almost endless journey of scrumptious Canadian pork inspired specialties and fine Canadian wines, naturalmente.

The hotel became the proud host for this wedding Canadian food promotion by showcasing the best of Canadian pork—a world-renowned premium comfort item for its tenderness and high-quality taste, palanggas, making Canada one of the largest meat exporters in the world, with the Philippines, would you believe, as its "fifth largest market for pork products."

The happening had the special intrinsic "experiencing the best of Canada inside-out" delighted with the participation of Marco Polo's distinct, warm hospitality and impressable service," said the hotel's communications officer, Allison Quijano.

For Marco Polo Plaza Cebu reservations, call Cebu at 2531111 or Manila at 8877283.

ANNA and husband Robert Lim, honorary consul of Canada to the Philippines

RHONDA R. City Mayor Jonas Cortes

JUSTIN Uy, Prebook CEO

JACK Sarsosa of Metro Gaisano Co.

EVENT master Borgy Manotoc and James Mapalo of Mint

CHRISTINE and Christian Napoles

THE POPULAR Mint shoes...it's all the rage

DANCING Marianne Vito Liptugco, Ryan Lim, Julius Rivera, Jeremiah Dee

Our perfect summer family vacation

Audrey Ann Zobel
Contributor

MOMSPEAK

We'd like to hear from you!
Email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

A FEW DAYS ago, I was blessed with enough leave time to sit down in front of my computer and sort through the thousands of digital photographs stored in my hard drive.

Every once in a while, I go through the photos of the year and develop the most memorable ones. As I went through them, I saw some of our most recent vacation pictures, and couldn't help but compare our current vacation with the ones we've had just me and my husband, Migs.

Back then, we used to choose destinations as exotic and inviting as possible—never mind if we had to take out another loyalty to travel in tiny planes. Adventure-hindered?

Nowadays, our destinations are chosen with a different criteria. Traveling without children is always a guilt trip but as we've newly learnt firsthand from it's not all bad. The plus is that we have everything that we need for them.

Recently, we decided to visit Iloilo (a trend that we had long wanted to visit). We wanted a vacation that would allow the kids to enjoy and let us relax without worrying about how to entertain them. But as the saying goes, we wanted a little bit of excitement for ourselves.

Miniloc Bay

Before, one clear summer day, we found ourselves on a plane bound for Legazpi City, Bicol region. Miniloc Bay at Caramoan is a small island off the mainland, about the same distance as Boracay, at the same time, we had been hyping for years to find an opportunity to visit the whole shebang in Donsol, Sorsogon.

We arrived at the resort mid-afternoon, and as soon as we checked in, the kids were off to the beach, which was right at our doorstep. It was humanly free rein for the kids, and before long, we were welcomed by Ate, the resort's assistant manager, in the home of the world-renowned white dunes of Saadsong.

We queued and filled up the necessary forms, watched a pretty impressive information video, and soon we were in a boat, prowling the seas for the perfect island.

It wasn't long before our guide signaled to us, and so soon then the few minutes after we jumped into the water, there it was! I froze as soon as I saw it. Goodbye Sea, Island? No. Island doesn't even begin to convey how huge it was.

I recovered from my shock, and soon found myself swimming along as we followed from a safe distance. It was incredible. Several dozen kilos, we easily lost we had already spent about two hours out at sea, and we were starving.

Like magic, Ate produced delicious pourover sandwiches from a cooler packed and ready to eat, together with cold bottles of water and soda. A generous number of fascinating sightings and food—what more could we ask for?

Personal playground

When we arrived back at Miniloc, we found out that we weren't the only ones who had had a great afternoon.

Our kids had made new friends with gourmet manager Jun and Guy Tanesan's daughter, Gianne and Cara, and together, they had spent the afternoon treating Mickey Boy like their own personal playground. My daughter gamely offered me a quick recap of their day when she bided watching the "cartoon" version in restroom dancing, feeding the fish, swimming in the baby pool, and making even more sand castles. Clearly, we were not missed.

The next morning, we were all up bright and early. The kids were raring to hit the Kids' Room with their hot-hats, while Migs and I looked forward to checking out the rest of the island on the All-Terrain Vehicles that the resort operates (ATV) and to experience the advantages of a place open to a resort. There we had the freedom to go off without feeling guilty about the kids.

We took the ATVs and climbed over hills and raced on unpaved dirt tracks through the forests, and before we knew it, we were on top of the highest peak of the island, enjoying the magnificent view of majestic beauty and lush scenery. On the way back, we passed some of the other interesting of the island, such as the sap line and the gorgeous glass chapel overlooking the ocean. What more?

That afternoon, just when we thought we had enjoyed everything Miniloc had to offer, we were treated to join the sunset cruise. We gamely hopped on the boats, and together with Jun's family, enjoyed the beautiful sunset while admiring our perfect cove of Mayon Volcano.

I couldn't believe how quickly our vacation had gone by! Looking at the photos now, I was reminded of how much I miss working up to the second of the cutest stories, gently capturing the shots.

Definitely, these pictures are going to be the first to be printed out, hopefully, I'll have more pictures to print from Future trips to Miniloc Bay.

CARA, Gianne and Ate Ines enjoying the sunset cruise

GIANNE enjoying the beach

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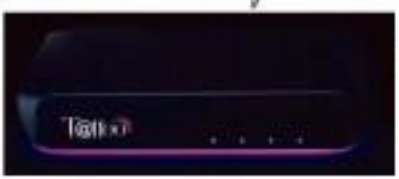

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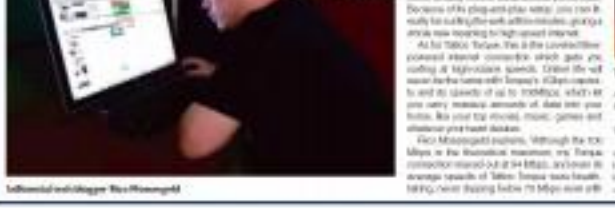

Influential and blogger Rico Hizon-gold

Confessions of a milk machine

If you've seen how a cow is milked on TV, that was pretty much how it felt. That's when the obvious hit me: That's what breasts are for. I am a mammal

By Joshua Goldfein Tenreiro
Contributor

WHILE PREGNANT and confined to bed most, I read several books, from pregnancy to parenting, baby-proofing to breastfeeding.

On my list was the La Leche League's lofty tome, "The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding," which I read along with several articles online. I watched how-to videos. I wanted to be as prepared as I could for when I would nurse my son Josh.

In reality, it was not a month harder than I thought. When you're pregnant, for all the unsolicited advice you get, no one tells you how painful and isolating nursing can be. Or maybe they did, and I just didn't absorb it. I only scored a new mother severely nursing her colic-and-sensitivity newborn. I remember not having my baby in a sling, feeding whenever, wherever, forthwith.

My body had other ideas, and we did Josh. He had a tonic that would put a butcher to shame. He wildly tried to latch on to my breasts. He would latch on to food. I would cry each time. The nurses at the hospital advised me to wear a nipple shield, since my nipples had gone flat and my son couldn't get any milk.

I literally ripped breastfeeding from its damned; it was tired, recovering from a Cesarean, having to nurse my heroic hungry food and equipment was over-less from exposure, while trying to channel confidence and soothe him.

The nurses who lived me a manual beamed pump. The pitch went like I was supposed to feed and I should then—how it shouldn't be upsetting, that milk flow will increase in time. So I kept at it.

Lactation massage

The shocking reality set in upon getting home: There's no more nursery to depend on; kid to fix you to recharge. Zombie-like, I persisted with breast-feeding, even getting a lactation massage at the hospital (a day later to relieve my uncomfortable engorgement.

My breasts became hard as rocks—but nothing would come out. The massage left my lousy eyed from the pain but later relieved, smelling like peppermint, but it shockingly limp. Admittedly, I was happy to be away the noise personal quiet time, with no one making demands on my body.

A friend recommended a lactation consultant. She went to our house, observed how I was doing it first, and then she stepped in—and rushed my nipple out. It hurted in pain, and almost hit her! But she kept tugging at me. She was mad then.

All that hurdle with easy because goes out the window when breastfeeding. If you've never seen how a cow is milked on TV, that was pretty much how it felt. That's when the obvious hit me: That's what breasts are for. I am a mammal.

In her books, my nurse became ticking bottles. She said that being well-endowed meant my baby needed additional support from me, by lifting my breasts for him. But tech would not be found, and I could not stand his pinching cries while I sobbed along with them.

I felt sorry for Josh, his little arms flailing mostly while shaking his head for lonely at my breast. He was red with anger, frustrated, and I'm pretty sure the whole neighborhood knew about it. With no hormones adjusting to my new motherly instincts, I was nothing like my baby blues, and my husband had to adjust to his canopy sale.

The lactation consultant said I should've contacted her while I was still in the hospital because I shouldn't have used a nipple shield. I should've gotten a nipple pump instead of couldn't believe those was such a device!)

But my goal was to feed my son breastmilk, so the next day I gave up.

To boost milk production, some people venture by bed rest on radio juice, but I was even touched coffee. My husband even concocted a mango, oatmeal and basil smoothie for me.

Josh's pediatrician Dr. Jess Clements prescribed Similac nursing pop capsules. I also drank Organika malunggay juice. Three weeks after I started, my milk returned to almost its original output. By Josh's third month, I was able to provide for 100 percent of his breastmilk requirements.

Fortunately, I was able to work part time from home, and I'd pump once in the morning my son. But being on exclusive pumper can be isolating and resentful. On days when I don't know how much longer I can sustain this lifestyle, I am grateful for my support I receive online from my new mom friends.

What it takes

These days I pump even four hours instead of every two. But everyone understands the commitment it requires to be an exclusive pumper. I still can't be spontaneous, neither if don't were able to feed on no dinner or if we just need formula around. I have to move up my pumping schedule along with his feeding, naps, bath and bedtime.

Leaving the house with Josh exhibit detailed planning, especially on long road trips overnight. Josh's pump and adapter, with fully charged batteries, should there be traffic.

When a morning every, I've had a guy on a bus stare at the strange contraption on my chest while on a walk-up.

Study your nursing cape and pee. Internet mothers for labeling each bottle with the amount, date and time.

Bring a cooler for bottles of expressed milk.

Have a bottle warmer inside your baby has no problem drinking cold milk) or ensure your destination has an electric kettle or boil water so your time a bowl to warm the bottle.

Always have a backup pump, don't forget his bottle-cleaning paraphernalia.

When the going gets tough, make the most positive. You only feel when you stop trying. And, keep in mind that this is only a small chunk of time compared to your entire life; the effort will be worth it!

Give your dad a bear hug

By Amanda Julie Synanyon-Manigan
Contributor

MY DAD and I are very close. Every night, I go to his room, and together we watch our favorite TV shows on his computer such as "Grimm-ered," "Modern Family," "No Ordinary Family" and "Nikita." It's our bonding time.

I enjoy this time with my dad so much. I can tell my dad anything, and he'll give me the best advice possible.

Some young people take their dad for granted. Right now I am telling you. Don't. You only have one dad in your whole life time so cherish every moment with him. That advice is especially for my "daddy's girls" out there, because I surely am one.

Until my dad met super-clone. When I have a math problem I come to him straight away. If I have friendship problems I go to him. If I have something going on I tell him first. I don't understand, I ask for his help.

If I have love problems... I go to my mom, but still, I go to my dad for him to provide a boy's point of view.

Whenever I and my dad fight...almost the stupidest things...are always followed by making up.

When I came home from my trip to Sweden, my dad was right there waiting for me at the airport, all smiles.

One of the things I love most about my dad is, he's so strong but also very caring. I guess that's just how dads are. They have to provide for their family while being available always, listening to their children's stories and giving them advice.

You know what I've learned throughout my 12 years of living on this planet is we call earth? Gods love dad. Small fries.

So give your dad a big bear hug; it always takes away the stress...

Daddy might have different ways of showing how much they love their families. But reasonably they're all the same. They love no matter how old their children are. As my dad says, you'll always be my baby even if you're 70!

I love you, dad!

THE AUTHOR with Daddy

How to cultivate curiosity in your kids

THE OUTDOORS is our big world. For a child to explore, a setting to satisfy one's inquisitive and are thorough play. Play which is something that a kid spontaneously engages in rather than an activity he is able is compelled to do, is how children make sense of their surroundings and learn.

"When children play, they feel in control of their world. That builds a sense of competence, strengthening self-esteem and confidence," says Family life and child development expert Dr. Lilian Lejano-Sandberg.

"Outdoor play is also important. It's real, hands-on exposition. Playing facilitates the physical, social and emotional development of children."

At the edge of learning. It is the moment to simultaneously feed their curiosity. Here are some ways to feed that:

Consider the child's developmental level. Give them activities and materials they can handle in social dynamics and strengthen their self-confidence.

Avoid telling them the best way to do things. Let them discover for themselves. Foster curiosity, enhance the cognitive development of children, consider their socio-emotional development as mandated through helping, sensing and feeling. Also, keep in mind that children can be allowed simply by other people's emotional states.

Let children know how much you value helping, caring and sharing, and be a good role model to them. The most important role of parents is that of a behavior model. Children tend to mimic what adults do more often than what they say. The ways parents communicate, solve problems and relate to others—coupled with an unaided learning environment—form a powerful tool for how children will learn and behave beyond the four walls of their home.

Invite children in defining their own feelings toward others, positive or negative. Children can't empathize with the emotions of others until they understand their own.

Welcome children's help and show how much you appreciate it—even the smallest effort. They should help because they want to, not because they expect rewards.

At this stage of exploration and learning, it is only natural for parents to be protective of their child, knowing how susceptible he is to being exposed to viruses and bacteria the world out there may bring.

One of the many ways to keep kids protected is with Probiotics. Probiotics, the known as good bacteria, are living microorganisms that are also found inside the child's gut.

These boost the child's immune system by producing antibodies that destroy toxins released by bad bacteria that can make him or her sick, prevent the growth of harmful microorganisms and balance the digestive system.

A good source of probiotics is Bido 3+, the only 3+ milk powder with Lactobacillus Protectus, a live probiotic strain of lactobacillus paracasei coupled with Bifidobacterium lactis longum, that is proprietary to Mead Johnson.

My 'normal' two-person family

From page C3

be the same gender? I don't want to hide the realities of life from her, but at the same time, I know I need to be able to talk to her in ways that she can understand, process and accept.

Like any other motherhood thing that enters your life, motherhood has its upsides and cotton-candy days, and it has its "I don't want to get out of bed" days. Between a husband in partner from the opposites, and you multiple days of sleep-induced stupor, even Nostalgia, I would not trade this experience for anything in the world.

Amanda and I fight like entire marriages, and yelling and whining are not uncommon modes of communication. We have our moments where her friends see me. Sometimes involving friends to get away from her. But whatever we both back from not being part of a normal family is offset by the unconditional love we have as one little two-person family, as well as the abundance of love and support we get from everyone around us.

Besides, what is a "normal" family anyway? Nowadays, the answer really depends on who you are asking.

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Discovering Antipolo's greener side

Rizal's rustic capital, with its proximity to Manila, offers some lovely garden getaways

(This story is a part of last Sunday's My CEB 360 supplement on Antipolo—Ed.)

By Irene C. Pena

PEOPLE OFTEN forget that Antipolo is part of a province, what with its close proximity to Eastern Metro Manila, residential villages and malls (there's SM Taytay and the posh SM Masinag).

The Rizal capital is an ideal day-trip destination for lush gardens, interesting restaurants, art galleries. It is also a favorite venue for weddings, parties, retreats and family outings.

The city has a comforting suburban vibe. The weather is better and the people friendly, and it has a soothing feel that makes you forget it takes around two hours to get there from central Manila.

If you often go to Tagaytay or Baguio for short vacations, check out Antipolo next time—it's accessible, affordable alternative travel stop.

TABLE set this way using native plates, table napkins from Davao and edible flowers

PIZZA garden within the Riddle Garden. Each "slice" is planted with spices topping: like tomatoes, onions, bell pepper, Italian oregano and basil.

RICE'S FARM AND GARDEN

http://ricegarden.com

The Ricos Tarriela is an advocate of organic farming, natural medicines and weeds—yes, the type that grows on sidewalks, outside your home or in your yard.

"Most [outside] weeds that can be used as medicines, and vegetables are edible weeds. There are a lot of useful weeds in the country that grow everywhere," she said.

Rice's Farm and Garden is a four-hectare farm where she gardens and studies organic farming. She shares her techniques in the colorful book "A Beginner's Guide to Natural Gardening," which she co-wrote with Gilbert Asuncion, with illustrations by Lira Flores.

The bright and breezy five-hectare farm

(SEE PAGE D2, COL 1)

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Discovering Antipolo's greener side

From page B1

TAKE home-and-dining area are breezy places to lounge in. At right, entrance to Flor 's scenic garden leading to a cabana

host a pool, garden with dining area, and some beds for massage. There's Kiddo Fiesta with a pen for "three little pigs," which surprisingly don't smell; a room called Petey; makeshift lounge with a canopy made of a white parachute; and raised "picnic" garden, with exotic "silver" planted with ingredients like tomatoes, onions, Italian oregano and basil.

To ward off mosquitoes and keep the farm fragrant, citronella and lavender seedlings are planted as well. No commercial fertilizers or chemicals are used in the farm.

Tarrida hosts events-building activities and parties, as well. For the harvesters, during lunch, she made a garden salad with edible flowers; chicken-pork adobo paired with savory sweet and eggplant with lagasang; plus rice colored with blue ternate flowers and fruit-shake juice.

GARDEN lounge with makeshift

CLOCKWISE from top right: blue ternate flower used in making "blue rice," a rabbit called Peter, and free-range pet chickens in the farm

ARAOS GARDEN

Jules Araos took us around Araos Garden and explained that his father, sculptor Jerry Araos, wanted to keep their garden raw and evergreen. It gives you a feel of being in a rainforest—there's no manicured grass, streamlined landscaping, fountains or anything too arranged.

"We wanted to keep the look as natural as possible, with some unique touches like a swamp and mini cabanas where artists like Noel Cabangon and Gay Alvarez perform," Jules said. "It is open to the public only on Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve, where we set up tables for a romantic meal."

SCULPTOR Jerry Araos' intentionally unkempt garden with natural stone formations and swamp with lilies. Green and purple pebbles from Davao cover Mandala (left), the center of the garden.

KUGRING LOPEZ CENTER www.kuging.com.ph

POOL area. KLC also has a campsite and hiking paths

The Eugenio Lopez Center was put up in Antipolo as an out-of-town venue for employees working in the Lopez group of companies. It was later opened to the public as a choice venue for seminars, corporate parties, meetings and team-building activities.

The 5,250-sq m center is perched on top of a 10-hectare property. The veranda offers a panoramic view of the city and a serene scenic escape on less cloudy days.

It has hiking trail, campsites, lectures rooms that seats 150, mini theater, library, gym, game room, swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, helipad, chapel and a clinic.

"TREE OF LIFE" sculpture by Impy Pilapil

JARDIN DE MINAMAR AND CASA SANTA www.minamar.com.ph

GALERIA

ROMANTIC garden setup

It's endless Christmas in Jardin de Minamar, a three-hectare compound which houses Casa Santa, a rare, luxury affair loaded with everything Santa—the collection of Edna del Rosario.

A life-size Santa sat in a sleigh greets you by the entrance. Inside the house is a Christmas tree with Santa trimmings, a panel of Santa-stalled toys, a morning Santa in a bedroom with Santa sheets, a Santa in the bathroom, and precious Santa crystals and globe bulls in a glass cabinet. The house even has an electronic fireplace!

Jardin de Minamar, meanwhile, is a numbered garden divided into dozen areas for celebrations: Pavilion, Pergola, Terrace, Entertainment, Gallery and Pinoy Bahay. Gideon Jr Nisoh's Rib, a 20-foot boat made of wood from a 50-year old fishing boat.

EDNA del Rosario collects Santa pieces because they "bring instant joy."

HINULUGANG TAKTAK www.hinuluganginntak.com

A popular Antipolo landmark, Hinulugang Taktak waterfalls is a must-see [in the same manner that you have to see Rizal Park, Manila Zoo and Tagaytay's Picnic Grove at least once].

The area has been developed as a National Park, and now resembles a resort with picnic area and swimming pool.

"Hinulugang Taktak" means "where the bell was dropped." According to its website, "Legend has it that sometime during the 16th century, the residents of Antipolo were bothered by a church bell which produced harsh sound-shaking together. They demanded that the local priest get rid of the bell so he dropped it in a nearby river."

To customers, take the Antipolo jeep from LRT 2 Santolan, or in Colmo. Might on Taktak Road, then transfer to a tricycle to get to the falls.

MUST SEE landmark

There's a right way to light up your home

OUR HOME, the lifestyle store where you can get great designs at great prices, lights up your house in style with chicly designed lamps from Living Direct. These lamps complement today's modern minimalist interiors with bases made from curved wood, silver chrome, tarnished metal, hand-blown glass, and crystals. In true contemporary fashion, these are also environmental-friendly, each guaranteed to accommodate energy-saving bulbs.

When choosing a table lamp, think about the light output in terms of lamp size, bulb wattage and shade type and choose the table lamp that matches your décor. Lamps that use 100W three-way bulbs will provide more light and make a large decorative statement in a room. Lamps that use low-wattage bulbs, like 60 and below, will produce lovely accent light elsewhere. Table lamps should be combined with other types of general light in a large room to create a balanced effect.

The Living Direct lamp collection is available at major City Mobile stores nationwide.

MOSAIC: Table lamp is a mélange of boy shimmer—crystal beads and glass for that luxe and fabric for its shade.

CORVA: Chrome table lamp with black fabric drum shade.

CRYSTAL: Cubism decorative table lamp has crystal-and-chrome base and white fabric shade.

WALLDORF table lamp has sleek silver chrome base and black fabric shade. Arke table lamp (right) has black curved wooden base and white canvas shade.

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Midrise leisure homes rise in Bora

DMCI DEV the premier of the mid-to-high-rising residential leisure home is no longer an expensive hobby. Developers such as DMCI Homes are making this opportunity possible for many people. It has brought the purpose in condo development to the leisure market with such projects as Alta Vista de Boracay, a midrise residence right in the heart of the famous tourist destination in Aklan.

DMCI Homes' Alta Vista de Boracay is a leisure development located at the north-western part of Boracay at Barangay Yapak, Alta Vista de Boracay with convenient access to the shorelines of their popular Boracay beaches: Allyn, Bambi, Puka Beach and Punta Bunga beach.

A beach-side condo unit has become a very viable alternative to buying a lote lot and constructing one's own beach house. The cost of condo units go beyond one along Boracay's shores is more profitable compared to ownership a unit in a residential development such as Alta Vista de Boracay. Condo residents also enjoy grouped management services, compared to hiring caretakers and security.

Alta Vista de Boracay's midrise planning is similar to DMCI Homes' other residential condominiums in the city. It has its own clubhouse with lounge, spa, entertainment room, game room, and recreational facilities and activities for the enjoyment of guests of whatever age. Other amenities include pool and beach, landscaped courtyard/gazebo including outdoor gardens.

Alta Vista de Boracay is developed by DM CI Homes, and is managed and operated by DMCI HI Beach Inc. For hotel reservations, call 632-893-2972 (BORA) or 632-3246666 for sales and inquiries. Visit www.altavistaboracay.com.ph or www.dmci-homes.com; or Facebook page Alta Vista de Boracay (officially DMCI Homes official).

ALTA Vista de Boracay has its own clubhouse with its fabulous spots as lounge, spa, recreational/entertainment room, game room and recreational facilities.

DMCI Homes' Alta Vista de Boracay

Sharon Cuneta launches kitchen line

AMERICAN HERITAGE KIS LAUNCHED its new line of kitchen appliances with actress-singer Sharon Cuneta making a live demo of her kitchen prowess using Calphalon with Sharon, her special collaboration with American Heritage.

A treat for the modern woman, the collaboration offers kitchenware that includes essential cooking gadgets, such as blenders, juicers, pasta makers, ovens, mixers, broilers, and electric hearth grills.

According to Rishi Mirani, general manager of Bhagi's International Trading Corporation [Philippine distributor of American Heritage], Cuneta, despite her demanding schedule, is still able to fulfill her role as homemaker in real life.

BHGIT's International Trading Corp. (distributor of American Heritage) general manager Arnold Schuh; BITC president Georgia Mirani, Sharon Cuneta, BITC supervisor for marketing and retail operations Grace Sanky and BITC executive Rajiv and Rishi Mirani

"Ever since we had an initial thought on opening a kitchenware line here since she certainly embodies the ideal contemporary homemaker-passionate and relentless, which represents the core image of the brand," Mirani said.

"Every piece of cookware has been tried and tested by me," Cuneta said about the line. "And I want my collection to appeal to all but for beginning cooks and new homemakers."

The American Heritage Calphalon by Sharon kitchenware line is available at Metro Ecostore, Gaisano City, Gaisano Mall, Gaisano Capital, Gaisano Dynasty, Gaisano Main, Gaisano General Santos, and at SM Appliance Center branches nationwide.

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THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

New ally for persons with disabilities

OFUC RESTAURANT and lounge had apologized to Jose Caballero for denying him entry because he was wheelchair-bound.

Now, persons with disabilities (PWDs) have a new ally. With the help of Caballero and his group, Ogue is planning to turn an event to help raise awareness of the special needs of differently abled individuals, "so there is a reason that newsboys be given greater attention in our society."

Caballero is needless to say, quite happy at the turn of events.

"We (Caballero and Ogue management) met, we talked, and we made progress for the good of society. This is still wanted," he said.

In an official statement, the establishment said it did not condone "discrimination, whether of persons with disability or discrimination in any and all situations."

It said that, although what happened to Caballero was not in line with its policy, it was taking full responsibility. The Ogue management said staff would be properly trained on how to handle customers, including PWDs.

Last week's mention of the troubles of two wheelchair-bound individuals drew the attention of Grace Romualdez who chased for some experience.

A permanent resident of the Philippines, Romualdez, who described himself as "medically disabled," said that on a trip to Singapore once, he tried the budget carrier AirAsia.

"I was required by AirAsia to pay for porter-operated wheelchair services. These charges were paid at exit from NAIA and arrival at Changi Terminal—a total of four separate charges for the round trip," he said.

Humorously said he asked the airline about the special charges. The company explained, "Air Asia is a budget carrier and is allowed to charge the moderately disabled for porter-assisted wheelchair services."

More than skin-deep

Aside, the company had known for providing customers with the needy or evidence these physical disabilities, it does not seem that beneath is more than skin deep by being a leading supporter of the fight against domestic violence.

After all, no amount of makeup can give an abused, terrified woman, who is being beaten black and blue by her husband or partner, that inner glow that is so much a part of being beautiful.

As part of its celebration of its 125th anniversary, Avon is holding a photo exhibit to highlight the true women positions. The exhibit, featuring photographs by Raymund Isaac, will be at the SM Mall of Asia at the Bicentennial Area in Pasay City. Formal opening is at 6 p.m. on June 16.

Deferred payment option

If mentioned before that some commercial establishments allow you to pay in installments as you do not have to worry about not having enough cash for your children's school requirements. If terms are nice and more stores now allow customers to pay in installments or term payment interest using their credit cards.

Most computer and gadget stores allow you to pay over 12 months. The Computer center at Robinsons Pyramid will let you pay for a minimum of P5,000 in purchases for up to six months but only for selected cards, like Visa.

Greenhills Department Store lets you pay over six months for a minimum purchase of P5,000. Hardyman's Hardware Store's minimum is P5,000, but payable in three months. Certain shoe stores, like Bata Tru Fit, also offer deferred payments, although the minimum required is P1,000.

The best thing to do is to ask if you feel that paying for your purchases in equal monthly installments is easier on your budget.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 8/F Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati and Yague Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 897-8703/894-; e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.

Steam oven for healthy cooking

TERA MK 900 S

TOKA, ONE of the world's leading manufacturers of high quality home appliances, commercial equipment and kitchen tanks, has developed the new MK 900 S, a steam oven that combines many useful features with sleek design.

The Toka MK 900 S steam oven can defrost, reheat and cook, making it the ideal kitchen partner. The Toka MK 900 S steam oven can defrost, reheat and cook, making it the ideal kitchen partner.

At 40 degrees, it can defrost delicate food in water vapor. At 80 degrees, it can poach and cook fish and meat, and simmer beans or prepare desserts. At 300 degrees, it can cook rice, vegetables, meats and fish, en-

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LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

How to fix up a 'shoebox' of a condo

By Marge C. Enriquez
Contributor

Downscale—and other tips for making a tight condo space livable and stylish

AS TODAY'S condos seem more like shoeboxes, staying on the forefront of style and décor is the key to making condo living bearable.

Interior designer Jigs Montero and his partner, Oliver Ortin, of Adelheim Design Studio recommend a trendy yet timeless look in basic shades of white, buttercream and brushes.

When they acquired their three-bedroom, 76-sq.-m condominium unit, it had a dark ceiling and various compartments. Adelheim took steps to give it style.

Reasons for layout

Walls were torn down and the ceiling was dropped to re-

HOW TO FIX

MONOCHROMATIC scheme visually enlarges the room. The color is 50:25:—50-percent black, made more interesting by 25 percent of complementary colors.

Fine home items from Italy

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Items are available in all Rustan's Department Stores.

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ON FATHER'S Day, June 19, Discovery Shores Boracay pays tribute to Dads by offering a dinner buffet spread of unique Asian flavors at Talindo Restaurant.

For P1,288++ per person, the entire family gets to enjoy savory dishes prepared by the award-winning culinary team of Discovery Shores. Lucky fathers have the chance to win a gift certificate from Terra Wellness Spa.

In await of the Great Luxurious Getaways Package, which offers weekend warriors an extended summer escape with three days, two nights, in a base twin accommodation of their choice, one Chef's Dinner at Talindo Restaurant, 60-minute Swiss Touch massage at Terra Wellness Spa, buffet breakfast, airport transfers and round-trip airfare via SEAIR. All guests availing of this package receive a complimentary Passport to Indulgence booklet that offers shopping discounts, food-related partners in Boracay and Manila.

Rates start at P18,888 net per person for Junior Suite; P30,888 net per person for One-Bedroom Suite, and P33,888 net per person for Two-Bedroom Suite Premiere. A minimum of two persons is required to a Junior Suite, One-Bedroom Suite and One-Bedroom Suite Premiere. For a minimum four in a room, guests can stay in Two-Bedroom Suite at P18,888 net per person or Two-Bedroom Suite Premiere for P18,888 net per person. Promo is available on BOOK 15.

Call 7536888 visit www.discoveryshoresboracay.com.

Manila food and beverage expo

The Manila Food and Beverage Exposition (MaFood) 2011 unveils June 15–19, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. The five-day food festival at World Trade Center will draw dual sectors of the food and beverage industry by featuring a diverse array of food and beverage products and categories, innovative technologies, latest supplies, original and competitive services, and modern formulations from all over the globe. Get to explore the different tastes for Chefs of the World stands how to offer and the diverse showcases at International Pavilion.

The exhibit is for the love of MARS–EBM Foundation Inc. Awarding to WB Sound Inc. chair Joseph Ang, with at least 600 booths of both foreign and local exhibitors on the show floor. Mother 2011 definitely is the biggest and most-awaited food show of the year.

There will also be free seminars that cover major trends and issues relevant to all food service professionals, culinary students and professionals.

In health: Managing Diabetes Mellitus Through Diet; Updates on Philippine Food Safety Framework; You Are What You Eat—a walk through on the effects of foods in health; Gluten Management for Cardiovascular Disease

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There are also inter-school competitions on especially for De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management. It includes competitions on Table Set Ups, Blended Punch, Cake Decorating, Ice Carving, to name a few. Also open to participants are major contests including Bermillion Fast Facts!, Rain Cup 2011 and Barbee Grazing Mini. Barbee also features the Young Exhibitors Exposition (YES), which showcases the talents of the SMCM students of DLS–CSB.

Visit www.worldtex.com; call 5216358, 11, 5241234, 5243813.

How to fix up a 'shoebox' of a condo

BANQUETTES on the corner save space. The seats hold hidden storage. Since most homeowners are afraid of black, Adefuin adds touches of color and shine.

From page B1

commodate various light sources and to add more depth to a flat space. Since Adefuin and Ortiz love to entertain, one dramatic layout change was to open up the kitchen and make it part of the living and dining areas. The designer said that installing a new exhaust in the living room not only expands the space, but also doubles the overhead seating.

Scale down

Adefuin had the furniture custom-built and scaled down for a condo. Adefuin said the most common mistake for first-time condo dwellers is to buy furniture that ends up being too bulky for the space. Instead of a sectional sofa in the living room, he chose a four-seater white sofa and limited the choices of furniture to ottomans and an abstract coffee table.

Daily milk color and textures. A common mistake among inhabitants is having too much variety in the color scheme, thereby overpowering the place. For this condo, a coordinating palette of neutral colored walls and ceilings with brown accent walls runs smoothly from room to room, thereby ensuring a unified look.

"Stream is cozy. When I get home from work, I want to relax in a warm atmosphere," says Adefuin.

Still, Adefuin is not all out of color, which is used as surprise elements. He chose black for the bathroom and slate blue in the guest room. He underscores the importance of keeping a balance of complementary shades and hues for the punches of color and of accessories and wall furnishing. Color is an expressive way to add more dimension to the room, he says.

In the living room, the monochromatic color scheme of neutrals and browns is enhanced by the pops of color from Antonio Luis's paintings, geometric patterns in the throw pillows and textures from the patchwork patterns in the leather ottomans, the shaggy carpet and leather woven chair.

The slate guest room, furnished with a sofa bed, is made interesting by the complementary colors found in the other rooms—subtle taupe, blue-green shades, brown throw pillows and the yellow abstraction on the wall.

Black is a daring choice for a bathroom. It

THE KITCHEN looks large because of the cooktop appliances and dark finishes—a versatile choice found back splash, black granite countertop, cabinets in laminated wood.

is enhanced by the silver leaf accent counter top.

Dramatics with dark finishes. To lend drama, the flooring is made of easy-to-clean black vitrified granite all throughout. The high sheen also adds to the feeling of spaciousness. The orange sticker and mahogany furniture in the living room, the cabinets anchored by a unique finish, and black granite countertops in the kitchen add depth to the neutral-colored walls and ceiling.

Hide the clutter. Since clutter is the biggest concern of most condo dwellers, Adefuin maximizes the space with lots of hidden storage, themselves store around a clear glass tabletop virtually expands the dining room. The stairs also lift up to provide storage. A cubby for the television and electronics also features a hidden pantry for the kitchen.

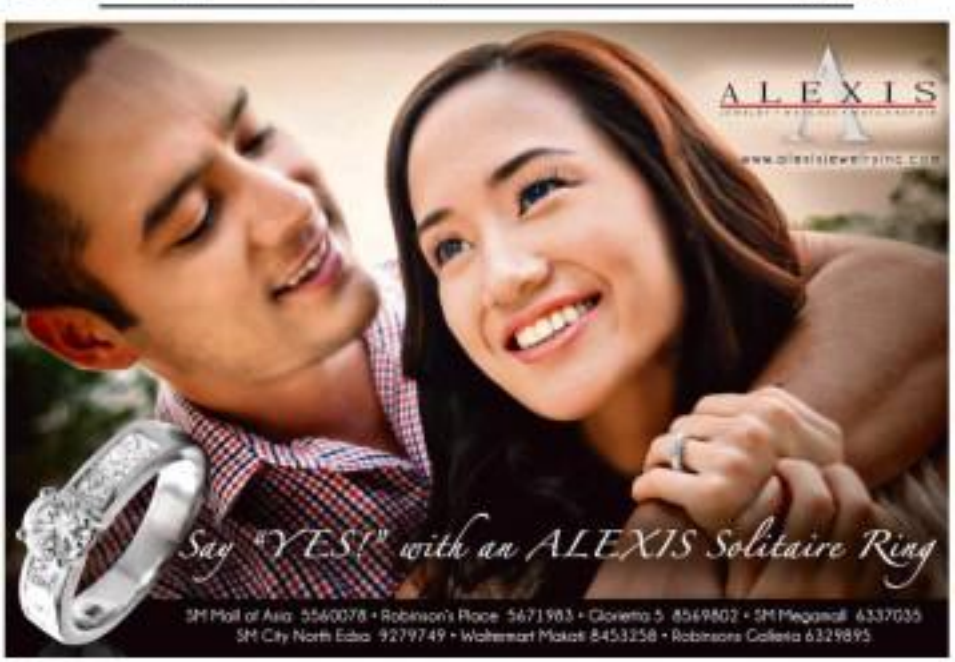
The shelf not only serves as display objects, but also becomes a decorative element with its geometric design. Mirrors can hide storage cabinets. A L-leg in coffee has a built-in bed that can be pulled out when there's a guest.

As a final touch, Adefuin dresses up the windows with drapes, swags, and shades for added glamour and coziness. He adds that a long shot mirror keeps bad vibes at bay.

CHICS up the windows for some glam even if it's a small space, says Adefuin. A vertical mirror by the door adds mood contrast to the dark colors.

JOY. Adefuin takes care of the creative side while partner Gilay Ortiz handles the business.

BLACK is a daring color for the bathroom, with Spanish tiles contrasted by a silver leaf counter. The mirror visually enlarges the tight space.



ENTERTAINMENT

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CHEER FACTOR

'H Potter' star starts growing up

EMMA Watson is preparing for the next chapter of her life.

The "Harry Potter" actress admits she needs to find her own way out of the bubble, which she describes in part as "the safe world of life on the set of the successful film franchise."

Watson, 21, says in the July issue of Vogue magazine that she wants to explore more of her creative side, and she's also candid: "I want to live like Patti Smith, singer-songwriter, visual artist and poet," she says.

Watson is no stranger to couture. Dazed Kaolaffe and Rupert Grint, and recently flew to New York in see Kaolaffe in Broadway in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." AP

LAURICE Guillen shoots at home, where she keeps (clockwise) Johnny Delgado's paintings.

Laurice Guillen embarks on her first indie movie

Competition director now knows what it's like for Cinemalaya filmmakers

By Rayan SanDiego Jr.

AS A BIRTHDAY gift to herself, filmmaker-actress Laurice Guillen enrolled in a scriptwriting workshop under Armando "Ding" Lao (last February).

"I love learning new things and I've been wanting to direct an indie film for the longest time," said Guillen.

She was supposed to shoot her first indie film three years ago, in fact, but was sidelined by work as competition director for Cinemalaya, the fitness and eventual passing of husband Johnny Delgado, and two Star Cinema movies.

This year, Guillen finally made time for her pet project, "Manduca," a tribute to Johnny.

"It's not exactly autobiographical, but Johnny is our pug. It's about the life and death of an artist. An artist has an other relevance but his life, his motivation."

Needless to say the film, which top-billed Tirso Cruz III and Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino, is particularly close to Guillen's heart. It marks a return to her roots—the comic full circle 30 years after her directorial debut, "Kasal."

"I'm coming from the mainstream, the studios have their own way of working," she explained. "I wanted to go back to the days of 'Kasal' and revisit the purity [of filmmaking with] total creative freedom, without compromises."

Sticking with Lao, Guillen's aim was to focus "the general rules, the grammar and

LAURICE 5-11

HEARD

"THE GREEN Lantern" lead actor Ryan Reynolds "We were shooting on a blue-screen stage with nothing to interact with at all. And those incredible actors—Carol Major from 'Lord of the Rings' and Nyla Dalton as well, from the same franchise—they just revved an entire living, breathing universe around us. That was amazing to see."

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June 17, 7pm

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MALL EVENTS

Dad's incredible

Opening This Week

Forever and a Day

Directed by Gabe Sorich-Molina; stars BC Cunningham, Sam Mills, Kayvar Cox, Duane Shivers, Vivian Tubbs, Marcel de Leon, Lal Hilliard

While on an extreme sports trip to Bahrain, workaholic jay (Mills) saves photo girl (Cunningham). The chemistry and dialogue there lives irresistible. Mollies says this film is "campy and heartfelt" because "it's more than a romance ... it's about love for life." Off the set, Cunningham learned to ice snow during two-a-day filming, while co-star Mills had to ride a motorbike, not room to zip line. "I was so scared," she recalls. Opens today.

Green Lantern

Directed by Martin Campbell; stars Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively, Peter Sarsgaard, Angela Bassett, Tim Robbins, Mark Strong

An alien passes on a mystical ring to a pilot (Reynolds) who suddenly acquires superpowers to fight a cosmic bad guy (Sarsgaard). HBO director Robert Mayer Beaird compares it to "The Last Starfighter." Is it realistic? The 3D was awesome. Terrific film," Pandaigan's Troy Alexander agrees. "Good mix of human action and drama." Jeremy Reed's Steady Schaefer notes that "an early screening elicited positive buzz." Opens tomorrow.

Mr. Popper's Penguins

Directed by Mark Waters; stars Jim Carrey, Carla Gugino, Angela Lanbbury, Clark Gregg, Madeline Carroll, Ophelia Lovibond

Pitt-orderly life of a businessman (Carrey) is turned upside down when he inherits six penguins from Antarctica. Gene recommended to my sweetie: "Wacky penguins plus Jim Carrey equals kid-friendly laughs." Cebbiecrom says: "Set that penguin dance! Adorable! They're stoked me in." On YouTube, Chris Stuckmann rubbed: "Carrey is surprisingly good ... All of the time in pixels had nothing to do with penguins." Opens June 17.

No bad blood between these SexBombs

By Manuel R. Cruz

FORMER Sexbomb Girl Rochelle Pangilinan, who recently joined Perry Lanuigan's talent management team, reveals there's no bad blood between her and former manager Jessa Cuarin.

"I sat down with Jes Jay before I made my decision. She even suggested names of managers who are OK in her book," Rochelle told Summit Entertainment at the press launch of GMA-7's "Amaya."

Rochelle was first seen on TV in the musical game show "Eat Bulaga," when she was just 16. In 2003, she joined the popular Sexbomb Girls, an all-female singing, dancing and acting group.

Five years later, she left the group to pursue a singing career. As an actress, she was seen in Kapuso shows "Alik Ko Po," "Darna," "Bubble Gang" and the musical "Dyesebel." Aside from "Amaya," she is a regular on the sitcom "Show Me Da Manay" and the variety show "Party Pilipinas."

Rochelle denied that her decision to leave Cuarin was prompted by the member of the Sexbomb Girls from "Eat Bulaga" to do TV solo shows. "Happy Yipppee Yehey" on ABS-CBN.

"The group has been in that show for so many years. I wanted to try something else. I've given the option to give them theirs, but I have a lot of other plans for myself."

But Rochelle admitted that she felt Cuarin was "too busy" with another group, Dyna Rose. "She has over a hundred dancers to take care of. I understand her situation, I'm not bitter about it at all."

Rochelle said she still hangs out with the Sexbomb girls. "I visited my mates with them, and spend some of my happiest moments to show my new photo, so the group is important to me."

ROCHELLE Pangilinan: Everything's cool.

AYALA MALLS

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
2: HANGOVER 2
3: SUPER 8
4: INSIDIOUS
5: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4 / HANGOVER 2
6: FOREVER AND A DAY
7: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

GREENBELT 1
1: SUPER 8
2: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

GREENBELT 3
1: SUPER 8
2: HANGOVER 2
3: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
4: KUNG FU PANDA 2
5: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: FOREVER AND A DAY
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2 (3D)
3: SUPER 8
4: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
5: HANGOVER 2

ayala center cebu
1: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
2: SUPER 8
3: FOREVER AND A DAY
4: HANGOVER 2

MARQUEE
1: HANGOVER 2
2: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
3: SUPER 8
4: FOREVER AND A DAY

MARKET! MARKET!
1: KUNG FU PANDA 2
2: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
3: INSIDIOUS
4: SUPER 8
5: HANGOVER 2
6: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
7: FOREVER AND A DAY

TRINOMA
1: HANGOVER 2
2: KUNG FU PANDA 2 3D
3: INSIDIOUS
4: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON STRANGER TIDES 3D
5: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS
6: SUPER 8
7: FOREVER AND A DAY

ABREEZA
1: SUPER 8
2: HANGOVER 2
3: FOREVER AND A DAY
4: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS

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MOVIE SPECIAL

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GREENBELT
Summer Treasure Hunt
June 15-30, Greenbelt Activity Center

BUENDIA FREE STREET
Father's Day Carnival
June 17-19, Buendia Area near Fully Booked

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Father's Day Festival
June 17-19, Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Father's Day Event
June 18, Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET!
Father's Day Event
June 17-19, Activity Center

TRINOMA
Art Workshop
June 16 & 17, Activity Center

MARQUEE
Art Workshop
June 18, Activity Center

ABREEZA
Photo Workshop
June 17, Activity Center

MALL SPECIAL

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RUBE MACHINE — BY MARK ARMEN

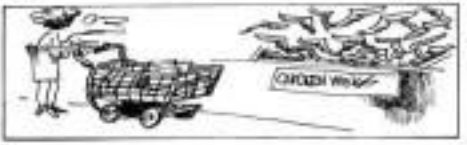
BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TOLES — BY MARK COLI



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY Because you are usually attracted to the needy, lonely, and unfortunate, you may find yourself romantically involved with someone who is demanding. The better way to attract others and enjoy them is to project confidence and self-assurance. Be sure to take care of yourself, too. Don't be so generous with your time that you neglect your own needs.

ARIES (March 21–April 19) This is a wonderful period for the Sun to be in your sign. Others will be attracted to you, and you will be in the mood to enjoy yourself. Don't be afraid to show off a little. Be sure to take care of your health, though. Don't overdo it.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20) Romantic matters might seem to be in high gear. Your challenge will be figuring out whether it's worth it to you to alter your own routines and priorities to make room for someone else.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20) Today the only full Moon of the month appears over sign of your opposite number, Sagittarius. It's a good time to confront — yourself, or your partner or close friend.

CANCER (June 21–July 22) Sometimes with no warning, friends and customers are called because of today's full Moon. You can sail through this quite easily if you've prepared well for everyone.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22) Friends will want to be paired with another Leo, today's full Moon. Therefore, your ideas will be appreciated, and you'll be encouraged to express yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Romantic matters might seem to be in high gear. Your challenge will be figuring out whether it's worth it to you to alter your own routines and priorities to make room for someone else.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22) Today the only full Moon of the month appears over sign of your opposite number, Aries. It's a good time to confront — yourself, or your partner or close friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21) You might be asked to consult for counterfeiting, especially about money or how one handles other people's wealth. If things are tense, postpone decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21) Today, the only full Moon in your sign is taking place. This naturally causes others with whom you have contact to be more emotional and draws them to you. Use emotional knowledge and intuition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) Work is on such an important footing that you can afford to relax a bit and enjoy life. Invite your favorite people over today for drinks and dinner, and remember to brag about everything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) Sometimes, even disputes and arguments with others in meetings, classes, and situations. The full Moon will probably throw differences into clear relief.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20) Because love is in the air, you will be in the right mood to express your feelings. Be sure to do so with authority figures today, even though you might not feel like it. Today is the full Moon, and it's a good day to differ with anyone in charge.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and programs go to www.sudoku.com

Concepts to previously issued puzzle

6	3	4	8	7	2	9	1	5
9	5	2	1	3	6	4	8	7
1	7	8	5	9	4	3	2	6
3	1	8	6	4	7	5	9	2
7	4	5	2	1	9	6	3	8
2	9	6	3	8	5	7	4	1
4	8	5	4	6	2	6	3	9
6	3	9	7	5	8	1	2	4
2	1	7	9	6	5	8	4	3

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

			7	2	9			
		7				5		
	1	8				9	2	
7								8
9								5
	8	5	4		2	6	3	
			3		1			
		1				4		
		2	9	6	5	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Subject's center
5 Hawaii feast
10 Hawaii feast
no good
14 Jacket
15 Oriental gesticulate
16 Heaven's abbr. (Variation)
17 Hawaii feast
18 Bird's beak
19 Hawaii's Honolulu
20 Slide
21 Bad cough
22 Hawaii's Honolulu
23 Agitate/stir up an
24 Hawaii's Honolulu
26 Quarantine
27 Hawaii's Honolulu
28 Hawaii's Honolulu
29 Hawaii's Honolulu
30 Hawaii's Honolulu
31 Hawaii's Honolulu
32 Hawaii's Honolulu
33 Hawaii's Honolulu
34 Hawaii's Honolulu
35 Hawaii's Honolulu
36 Hawaii's Honolulu
37 Hawaii's Honolulu
38 Hawaii's Honolulu
39 Hawaii's Honolulu

Laurice Guillen . . .

From page F1

the language of indie filmmaking." Daughter Isa Pelaez enrolled in the workshop, too. Actually mother and daughter even cooking trips script together, which eventually became "Hinakoy," Isa is acting in the movie as well, and it's the first time that Guillen is directing her.

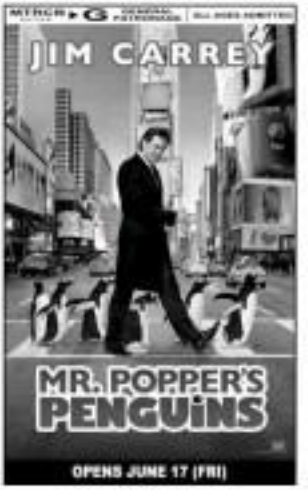
The filmmaker said they enjoyed the whole process. Quite the workshop to the classic. "We have our classic," Guillen said. "And after expressing our angst, Isa and I insert our sensibilities."

Her eldest daughter, Isa's actress Asia Pelaez, is helping out with the music and other tasks. "We are all involved, since it's produced by our company Dito Cinco," said Guillen, who recently wrapped up principal photography "Manilaya" is currently in postproduction.

The last shooting day in suburb Xcaret somewhere, mainly fields and family.

Guillen said she encouraged her actors—Ricky Davao, Lou Lucvisa, Mark Gil, Angelica Panganiban, Ali Sotto, Isabel Rivas, Jerry Sevaco, Marilou Endozo ray, Bet Gervez, Sup and Rene Fernandez, Madeleine Nicolas, "Jilly and Arnel Ardiza, among others—to "improvise" on their lines of dialogue. She explained: "They had a basic guide, but the scene wasn't scripted because I wanted it to come out real. I was surprised by some of the emotions they came up with." With this, her first indie, Guillen now knows what Cinemalaya filmmakers go through. "It's like joining the Amazing Race," she said.

"Hinakoy" is the opening film in this year's Cinemalaya.



CONEY Reyes and her sister-in-law Jo-ann Maglalang

Coney Reyes says '100 Days to Heaven' is an answered prayer

Playing meanie part of her ministry

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SHE HAS always been known for "Miss Goody-Two-Shoes" roles, but Coney Reyes refused to do the opposite.

"I was worried I wouldn't be convincing as a villainess because people know of my ministry on 'The 700 Club Asia,'" she told the Inquirer.

She had done "the usual mother roles," where the character came to realize herself to, how-then-to-life characters on ABS-CBN shows like "Gulardo" and "Bukid."

In the new series, "100 Days to Heaven," she proves play yet another "meanie"—Anne Mendiola, a murder victim who came back to earth to right her wrongs. She's played as a bodyguard by Xyrel Mendiola.

As an actress, Coney isn't scared of being typecast. She recalled coming out of the theater after watching "The Devil Wears Prada."

Instead, one by Meryl Streep. "What stuck in my mind was not that she played a control-ik, but how good she was at it," Coney recalled.

She revealed that, to her, "100 Days" is an answered prayer, given a chance to spread the ministry of faith, and on prime time television at that.

Reluctant

She confessed to some initial reluctance, last until her son LA, a pastor, persuaded her with a simple advice: "Ma (mel) I should just listen to what network executives told to me."

When the show's concept was explained to Coney, she was initially convinced. "I feel been praying for a show like this," she said. "God touched people's hearts and inspired them to create this show one that seeks to make a difference."

In a landscape that thrives on wasted and sinful, she noted, "100 Days" dares "not only to impart positive values, but also to offer hope." Optimism is said to be king in the world right now, she said.

Coney is a bit saddened by the current state of Philippine television, feeling limited and worked with the best, she said, on "Student Canteen" and "Ang Iibigin."

Coney pointed out that the small ensemble for cottage supervisory could discover media prominences from their true goal—to entertain, educate and enlighten.

Coney has always been forthright about her past relationship with Gabriel "Rubayat" Caldwell Yu during the interviews. To their end, it they've remained friends.

Coney and Yu went on proud parents when their son Yeo graduated with a degree in political science recently.

"Yeo wants to take up law," Coney said. "He makes sure to spend quality time with Gabriel. I know that he will always be there for our son till my children. ... We are a rather old-fashioned with Larry Manuel (Jo and Carlo. Ah is a part of our lives."

Return engagement for elusive actress

By the Entertainment Staff

IT DRAMATIC that his candle herself a comeback since, it's because she's busy with her love life. Longtime friend hinted the night a statement pal, Archbishop Director, that OS is "engaged" to be married (for the second time) to Rich Gay, who is separated, just to the it. LF is happy for JS, of course. But when LF told other industry insiders, they raised a collective brow. Hmm-bakwan?

Misses, misfits

Djedjed Pimdao en was upset with Iroy Acosta' Talent Manager. As in, livid. EF sent Rondin Director via text an expletive-filled diatribe against TH. Unbeknownst, the text was sent to TM instead. TH pulled out JA from the project, though SO wanted to redshoot scenes. Now SO scrapbook that JA was being difficult and TM sees RO's stuff to in blame for the sentence.

Addicted to hunks

Colorful Chancellor is addicted to hunks. She is often seen in the company of hunky, macho men who are very tattoo and bulbous-looking. Splashed on Facebook are photos of CC with a known gigolo who dabbles in showbiz. Shokoy.

Painful secret

Matinee idol made the ladies swoon in his heyday. Had the gals known his secret, they would've been turned off right from the start. Before SB was launched by home shindig in the 1980s, his handlers had to find a doctor who could be bonded with a nasty secret. Turned out, SB acquired an unpronounceable disease affecting women of all ages. He had to undergo painful treatments. Ouch!

Top of the Talk Shows

Kit Thorn who missed last weekend's TV gabfests (and why we are moved, if we are moved).

▸ Jennylyn Mercado on her biological mom Judy Pineda saying that she was not a victim of child abuse. "That's my mom. Hinding-hindi ko yun tatawaging nanay ang iba maliban sa nanay ko. Para makabalik ng anak mo, dapat mo siyang ipakulong? Hindi ako ganun. Ang nagpalaki sa akin ay ang nagpalaki sa akin. Ang nagpalaki sa akin ay ang nagpalaki sa akin. Ang nagpalaki sa akin ay ang nagpalaki sa akin

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